FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 FEBRUARY 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio on 3 February, declared that if threatened Iraqi raids are carried out, "all industrial centers of Iraq will become targets for the Islamic combatants." He requested that "Iraqi brethren and foreign workers and experts" keep away from these targets. The prime minister also denounced the "baseless propaganda that Islamic combatants have shelled Iraqi residential areas." He noted as "most interesting" the fact that this threat had been issued "simultaneously" with the U.S. assistant secretary of state's visit to Iraq. The prime minister warned that Iran will resort to "any available means" to foil Iraqi "adventures" and added that it has the "means and determination" to "shake the foundations of the palaces in Baghdad."

In a separate development, Iraqi planes bombed a Cypriot cargo ship in the Gulf near Bandar-e Khomeyni, AFP reported citing a source in the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Middle East and South Asian affairs, to discuss the current Arab situation and other international issues of common interest, INA reported. Murphy also briefed the president on U.S. efforts in Lebanon, Voice of the Masses radio added.

Lebanon

Military/Security Situation — Violent clashes between the Army and the opposition continued throughout the night in Beirut's southern suburb and in the mountain area, Beirut radio reported. The Army succeeded in regaining its positions in the southern suburb with one soldier killed and five wounded, the radio said. Civilian casualties totaled 10 dead and 35 wounded with 2 citizens being killed by shells in the city of Zahlah, according to reports by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. A cease-fire agreed for 3 February did not hold and Beirut once again came under shell fire, including areas near the airport, the Presidential Palace, and the U.S. ambassador's residence in B'abda, Beirut radio reported.

Political Issues, Contacts — Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt met with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus on 2 February in the presence of the U.S. ambassador to discuss the military escalation in Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo stated. Junblatt arrived in Tripoli on 3 February and met with former Prime minister Rashid Karami, Beirut radio reported.

Saudi Position Confirmation — In reply to Foreign Minister Elie Salim's inquiry about Crown Prince 'Abdallah's statement on the need for U.S. Marines to withdraw from Lebanon, Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal said that his country's position on Lebanon is "firm" and has "not changed," Beirut radio reported. The Saudi foreign minister said Prince 'Abdallah's statement "may have been distorted," the radio added.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algeria on 2 February as part of his tour of Arab and African countries Algiers radio reported. According to 'Arafat, the tour became necessary after the visit by the "head of the Zionist entity" to Zaire and Liberia, the radio added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan To Meet — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will hold a "mini-summit" with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Jordan's King Husayn following his return from Africa, MENA reported citing the Paris-based *AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI*.

Libyan-Tunisian Talks — Libya's Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi arrived in Tunis on 1 February for an "unannounced" visit, KUNA stated. Discussions with Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali centered on bilateral relations and the current situation in the Maghreb, Africa, and the Arab-Zionist conflict, Tunis radio reported.

Sudan

Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, in a statement to SUNA, described the 2 February attack on workers at a Chevron camp as a "continuation of conspiracies against Sudan." The "plot aims at stopping Sudan's progress," the vice president added. At-Tayyib pointed out that the attackers had "infiltrated" from Ethiopia.

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Khalaf Denies Soviet Support For PLO Dissidents

LD030006 Kuwait KUNA in English 1746 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] London, Feb 2 (KUNA) -- Member of the Executive Committee of Fatah Salih Khalaf has denied that the Soviet Union supported the dissident movement against the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. In an interview with the London-based Arabic magazine *AT-TADAMON* published Thursday, Abu Iyad said that the Soviets did not back the split in Fatah and they looked upon it as "something wrong." Moscow was also opposed to any conflict between the Palestinian resistance and Syria, he went on. The Soviet Union was likewise against Syrian actions during the course of the conflict with the PLO, but it was not prepared to "go against its Syrian allies," the leading Fatah member said. Khalaf described PLO-Jordanian relations as good. He observed, however, that the new Jordanian position did not have "a strategic horizon" because there were some people in Jordan who would think that any links with the Palestinian resistance could be "harmful."

Abu Iyad called for the resumption of "clandestine activities," which should only be known to few people in the Palestinian leadership. He stressed that the sphere of secret operations should be limited to the occupied Arab territories. The PLO second-in-command indicated that there had been a "conspiracy" going on against the Palestinians over the last few years which had the support of both the United States and Israel. He considered the visit by PLO Chairman 'Arafat to Cairo a "unilateral move" that would obstruct any "objective plan" to resume relations with Egypt.

Al-Fahum Addresses Palestinian Workers Meeting

JN021844 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Damascus — The seventh regional extraordinary conference of the Palestinian workers union began its work today under the slogan: The Palestinian rifle will remain the basic element to settle the conflict with the Zionist invaders. Khalid al-Fahum, speaker of the PNC and patron of the conference, made a speech in which he praised the Palestinian workers' struggle against Zionism and colonialism since the Palestinian tragedy — a struggle to liberate the Palestinian soil and establish an independent Palestinian state under the PLO. He said that Palestinian national unity must be based on adherence to the Palestine National Charter and the PNC decisions. He added that any encroachment on these decisions will shake Palestinian unity. Al-Fahum condemned the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance that aims at liquidating the Palestinian revolution and imposing imperialist-Zionist hegemony on the region.

Concluding his speech, Al-Fahum praised Syria's firm and principled stands under President Hafiz al-Asad — stands that support the Palestinian people's rights and their struggle to achieve them. He also praised the Syrian Armed Forces' heroism through protecting the Palestinian revolution and confronting the continued U.S.-Israeli aggression against our nation and our people's rights. He affirmed the fateful cohesion between Syria, the PLO, and the Lebanese nationalist forces that are struggling to realize Lebanon's Arabism, unity, and independence.

Improvement in Palestinian-Saudi Relations Seen

JN021758 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1627 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the night before last the Moroccan capital witnessed a closed meeting among brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia; and King Hassan II of Morocco. Last week, Morocco was the venue of the fourth Islamic summit with all its resolutions and the contacts which took place during its convocation. King Hassan II was the chairman and dynamo of that summit. The Saudi king, who attended this summit, is now in Rabat, and will soon leave on a visit to the French capital where the active Saudi and French roles will be discussed in terms of the problems and issues of the Middle East.

Brother commander Abu 'Ammar, who is also in Morocco to follow up on the Islamic summit resolutions, will resume his African tour in an effort to achieve Arab-African accord against U.S.-Zionist attempts to restore Israeli infiltration into Africa. Therefore, the meeting of the Palestinian, Saudi, and Moroccan leaders in Rabat — the crossroad of the Islamic world, Africa, and Europe — could be described as uniquely important in view of all these dimensions.

However, we must now concentrate on the Arab dimension of this meeting. It is no secret of course that Palestinian-Saudi relations have been marred by clouds, albeit light, following Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo. It is also no secret that these clouds have not gathered due to Palestinian causes or causes pertaining to the purpose of the visit itself. These clouds began to disappear during the Islamic summit in Casablanca, for during that summit, two meetings were held between brother commander Abu 'Ammar and the Saudi king. The Palestinian and Saudi sides also exerted joint efforts in backing the call for Egypt's return to the ICO.

No doubt, this last meeting in Rabat — on the eve of King Fahd's visit to France, Brother Abu 'Ammar's tour of Africa, and the implementation of the Islamic summit resolutions under the supervision of King Hassan II — indicates that the summer cloud has passed and that firm coordinated steps are being taken regarding future efforts and activities.

This significant development establishes the fact that political and diplomatic activity is the most readily available, and therefore most effective, means of pushing the Palestine question forward and keeping it alive in the vital and active international sphere. No doubt, this activity needs maximum unifed Arab support if it is to achieve the desired effect and objective. It is no secret of course that the lines of this activity and the influential forces in it extend from Riyadh to Cairo; to Europe, under the leadership of France; and to Africa, from the Rabat crossroad, where the Palestinian, Saudi, and Moroccan leaders met during the Islamic summit, which called for Egypt's return to the ICO.

BAHRAIN

ROK National Assembly Speaker Departs 3 Feb

GF030936 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] Manama, 3 Feb (WAKH) — Chae Mun-sik, speaker of the South Korean National Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him, left Manama for Amman today at the end of a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

During his visit, the Korean official held talks with Bahraini officials on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Amir Holds Talks With Iraqi Ambassador

GF030938 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0918 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] Manama, 4 Feb (WAKH) — Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, received in Manama today Thabit Nu'man al-'Ani, the Iraqi ambassador to Bahrain. They discussed bilateral relations, current Arab developments, and issues of mutual interest.

KUWAIT

UK Secretary Holds Press Conference, Departs

LD021437 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait; 2 Feb (KUNA) — The British secretary of state for defense, Michael Heseltine, said here today that his visits to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were not aimed at selling arms, but at continuing contacts with the two countries' leaders concerning political developments.

The British secretary of state, speaking at a press conference before leaving Kuwait after his 3-day visit, said that he "wanted to discuss the horizons for future cooperation with the countries of the region and to confirm that the leaders of the two countries were satisfied with previous arms deals." He pointed in particular to the recent deal on Britain's sale of jet training aircraft to Kuwait, and stressed "the importance of preserving regular contacts with Gulf leaders."

Concerning the situation in the Gulf, Heseltine expressed "the wish of his government that the war in the region would end," and added: "Britain is always ready to support mediatory efforts to stop the Iraq-Iran war and to support efforts to reach a UN Security Council resolution which would be accpetable to both sides." He stressed "the need to preserve the freedom of navigation in international waters," adding that his country would be displeased to learn of any attempt to obstruct the freedom of navigation.

In the light of developments in the region, Heseltine said: "The GCC countries' efforts to draw up a defense strategy and to unite their defensive abilities is quite understandable."

In discussing Lebanon, he said that Britain is keeping a small detachment within the Multinational Forces, and ruled out any unilateral withdrawal by any of the four countries constituting the Multinational Forces. He defended the idea of the British resolution to send a detachment to Lebanon by saying that it is a justifiable attempt to create an atmosphere of peace, and to contribute to the stability of the Lebanese Government.

The British secretary of state also ruled out holding comprehensive European talks aimed at submitting a European peace initiative for the Middle East. He said that British policy is based on the framework of the Multinational Force, which also includes France, the United States and Italy. He said his government's view is based on its military alliance with the United States and that this alliance is the cornerstone of its policies.

Interior Minister on Increased Security Measures

LD022313 Kuwait KUNA in English 1836 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 2 (KUNA) — Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad as-Sabah stated Thursday that the concerned authorities had started implementation of a comprehensive security plan earlier adopted by the cabinet to combat crime and erect a security barrier on land and sea to guard against illegal infiltrators as much as possible.

In an interview published today by *AN-NAHDAH* magazine, the official expressed satisfaction regarding security conditions in the country following the December 12 bomb incidents, as well as the recent measures taken in this respect. However, he cautioned that such satisfaction should not be interpreted as a "return to the state of relaxation, because Kuwait will remain alert and vigilant against any attempts to undermine the safety of the country or the individual."

Shaykh Nawwaf renewed his earlier accusation that foreign parties were behind the bomb blasts which killed six persons and injured 81 others, and said the culprits will receive their due punishment when they stand trial before the state security court, scheduled to begin on February 11.

Asked about the suspension of new labour permits and visit cards, the minister said that once current consultations between the interior and labour ministries are finalized on new, stringent rules and a revised basis for the granting of new entries, expatriate labourers and visitors will be allowed into the country soon. He denied in this respect any arbitrary deportation of immigrant workers in the wake of the seditious plan, assuring that the ministry's aim is to provide security for citizens and residents alike.

Shaykh Nawwaf concluded that the newly-formed Council of Governorates will be entrusted with supervising the general state policy regarding development projects in each governorate and helping the governor run the educational and social affairs of his area.

Comments on 'Lawbreakers'

GF021700 Manama WAKH in English 1555 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Feb (WAKH) — Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad as-Sabah said that the country will

not tolerate lawbreakers or any meddling with the state's security.

In a statement to be published Saturday by the Kuwaiti daily *AN-NAHDAH*, Shaykh Nawwaf said that a security plan had been approved by the Kuwaiti cabinet to deal with such violations. The Kuwaiti minister ruled out the arbitrary discharge of any Arab emigrant, but confirmed punishment of saboteurs.

AN-NAHDAH said that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces are currently undergoing training to confront riots.

Soviet Novosti News Agency Official Visits
GF021102 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 1 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] The managing editor of Novosti News Agency, Aleksandr Kraznov, is visiting Kuwait for a few days. He is an expert on Middle East and African affairs.

PDRY

Lebanese Communist Official Concludes Visit
GF021800 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Brother Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Organization of Communist Action in Lebanon, left Aden this morning after several days' visit to our country.

During his visit, he held talks with a number of party and state officials on the developments of the situation in the Lebanese arena, the struggle relations between the YSP and LCP [Lebanese Communist Party] and the developments of the situation in the Arab arena in general.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Mahmud an-Najashi, member of the YSP Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee, and a number of officials from the Secretariat of the YSP Central Committee.

Bulgarian Official Departs After Brief Visit
GF021452 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade Georgi Yordanov, candidate member of the Politburo, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Cultural Committee in the Bulgarian People's Republic, left Aden this morning after a brief visit to our country during which he held talks with a number of officials on bilateral relations between our country and the Bulgarian People's Republic. During his visit a protocol was also signed on 1984-1985 cultural cooperation between the two friendly countries.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Yordanov expressed satisfaction with the results of this visit, and described his talks with the officials at the Culture and Tourism Ministry as successful in aiding the cooperation between the two friendly countries. He noted that the agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation, which was signed during this visit, will expand and strengthen cooperation between the two friendly countries, and pointed out that the terms of the cooperation program fully correspond with the policies of the two parties in the PDRY and Bulgarian People's Republic.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and tourism; Muhammad Ghalid Ahmad, deputy culture and tourism minister; the Bulgarian ambassador to Aden; and a number of officials at the Culture and Tourism Ministry.

SAUDI ARABIA

Commentary Reviews 'Abdallah Remarks on U.S.
LD021508 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Feb 84

['Ali 'Abdallah al-Mani' commentary]

[Text] Brothers: His royal highness, Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the regent, has received an American fact-finding delegation and commented on various aspects of the tense situation in the Middle East — particularly the U.S. role in Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli struggle and the Iraq-Iran war.

As always, his highness's talk was frank, clear and realistic. He began by quoting the well-known Arab saying: A friend is he who is sincere with you, not he who believes you. We are not here to explain this saying — which should be regarded as the product of a mature mind and the fruit of much experience over a long period of time — but what interests us here is to explain what his highness the regent wanted to say to the American delegation: that a genuine friend is one who speaks only the truth, and not he who only believes what is said.

His highness the regent used this saying as a basis and a platform to express his profound ideas regarding the major issues occupying the minds of the leaders of the Arab nation and its people.

The first of these is the presence of the American Marine forces in Lebanon. His highness questioned the meaning of the role being played by these forces in that country, which has been bleeding for more than 8 years. This bleeding, regrettably, has not stopped even with the arrival of the Multinational Forces. His highness also questioned the motives of a move taken by a superpower like the United States to send its fleet and 2,000 of its troops to Lebanon, while fully realizing the gravity of such a move.

The point is that if its troops intervene in the disputes and skirmishes between the warring Lebanese factions, such an intervention will be met with denunciation by all because it would be a blatant interference on the part of a superpower. And if they fail in their mission, the result is known: the undermining of U.S. prestige.

Therefore, if the facts are thus, there are real reasons for the presence of the Multinational Forces in Lebanon, and there is no

harm in mentioning some of these reasons, as explained by President Sandro Pertini of Italy when he justified the desire of his country to pull out its forces by saying: There is no role anymore for the Multinational Forces in Lebanon unless the object of its presence is to protect the invading Israeli forces. Let us add to this what was said by the speaker of the American House of Representatives, Thomas O'Neill, on the presence of American forces in Lebanon. He said: The American policy in Lebanon has failed, and the time has come for the withdrawal of the American Marines from the trenches and underground bunkers.

The question that occurs now is: How can troops crouching in trenches and bunkers take part in bringing about peace in Lebanon, at a time when they are focusing their thoughts solely on how to protect themselves? And just where is the participation of these troops in establishing peace in southern Lebanon, where every day Israel is committing the ugliest examples of tyranny and terror against the Lebanese citizens there?

Lebanon, which is an independent Arab country and an officially recognized member of the United Nations, has been subjected to destruction by the Zionist invaders who, when storming Lebanese territory, engaged in killing women before men, and children before the elderly. And not content with this, they have flattened cities and villages over the heads of their inhabitants. All this happened and continues to take place while everybody is silent, as if it does not concern them.

High highness the regent went on to say: If American fleets and forces had come to Lebanon to deter the aggressor, oblige it to withdraw and punish it, then the coming of these fleets and forces would have been fully appreciated and welcomed, not only by the Lebanese and their Arab brothers but also by all the states and peoples that condemn aggression, whatever its source and motives. But if the objective is to protect the implementation of a specific policy based on a wrong idea, well this is something that cannot be accepted, and no one can condone it.

In his talk to the members of the American delegation, his highness the regent touched on the pressure being put on President Ronald Reagan from within his country for the withdrawal of the American Marines from Lebanon, stressing that the American forces and the Zionist invasion forces must withdraw from Lebanon as soon as possible, and these forces must not use as a pretext the presence of the Syrian Forces. His highness the regent is fully convinced that the Syrian forces will withdraw from Lebanon; as the Syrian officials have affirmed and continue to affirm that Syria will withdraw its forces from Lebanon after the withdrawal of the last American and Israeli soldiers from Lebanon.

His highness then turned to American-Israeli relations, which have assumed a privileged character since the two sides signed the strategic cooperation agreement, which was said at the time to be aimed at enabling Israel to stand in the face of the Soviet Union and to confront it, if it should attempt to intervene in the Middle East region.

His highness the regent explained that this justification is groundless and illogical. Israel and others too are incapable of standing in the face of the Soviet Union in the region, the point being that even the United States itself and its Western allies have been unable to stop Soviet expansionism in many of the world's hotspots, such as — and this is an example not an enumeration — the Soviet presence in Latin America

In the face of this reality, it appears to us that there are other aims behind the signing of this agreement. Despite the fact that these aims have not been declared, no one is ignorant of the fact that they are fundamentally directed against the interests of the Arab nation.

His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the regent, spoke about the tragedy and ordeal of the Palestinian people, which has lasted more than 35 years. His highness explained to the American delegation how these people live in exile dispersed throughout the world, and how over recent years they have been subjected to killing and torture without any move by international conscience, especially in the Western states of whom we hear every day that they are asking for human rights to be observed in certain states violating human dignity and rights — such as Chile, Poland, El Salvador and elsewhere. This at a time when these Western states are flooding Israel with financial and military aid in order to encourage it to persist in practicing its aggressive and expansionist policies in the Arab region.

His highness the regent emphasized that the United States, as a superpower, can seriously and effectively participate in bringing about peace in the Middle East through the attainment of a peaceful solution to the crisis in the region, explaining that President Reagan's peace plan for the Middle East was rejected by the Arabs only because it ignored the essence of the conflict in the region, namely the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The United States must realise before anything else that its interests and those of the Western states are in the hands of the Arab nation and not in the hands of anyone else, and that any harm to this nation will harm these interests. On the other hand, divisions and disputes currently witnessed by the Arab scene should not reduce the efforts of the American administration. These divisions and disputes, His Highness the regent stressed, are doomed to disappear sooner or later, and afterwards it would be extremely difficult to accept any peaceful solution, whatever it may be.

His highness the regent noted the Iraq-Iran war, one that has entered its fourth year without any ray of hope appearing on the horizon. The war that has caused damage to the two Muslim countries and its continuation threatens the security of the entire region. It is now clear to all that the continuation of this war is a result of Iran's lack of response to all the efforts and peaceful initiatives aimed at peacefully ending the conflict between it and Iraq.

His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz underlined that the United States does have possibilities. If they had been used, Iran would have agreed to end this war and accept a peaceful settlement. His highness called on the United States to put pressure on its friends, and particularly Israel, to stop deliveries

of weapons and spare parts to Iran because the flow of these deliveries induces Iran to continue the war and to believe, wrongly, that it will achieve its aims by military means.

UAE

Moroccan Commerce Minister Concludes Visit

GF021802 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 2 Feb (WAKH) — Azzedine Guessous, Moroccan minister of commerce, industry and trade, left here Thursday after a 3-day working visit to the UAE.

Ibrahim, Shindi To U.S. for 'Vital' Economic Talks

NC022005 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA) — MENA has learned that Dr Mustafa as-Sa'id Ibrahim, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Dr Wajih Shindi, minister of international investment and cooperation, will visit Washington within the next 2 days on the instructions of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

MENA also learned that during their stay in the United States, the two ministers will hold urgent and vital talks with U.S. economic officials prior to the final touches which are being put to the economic cooperation projects, the U.S. budget for the coming year, and Egypt's share in this respect.

Briefs

New Danish Ambassador — Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA) — New Danish Ambassador William Thune Anderson arrived today in Cairo to assume his duties as Denmark's ambassador to Egypt. He is replacing Jorgen Korsgaard-Pedersen who completed his assignment here. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Feb 84 NC]

Egyptian Military Quarterly — A contract was signed yesterday for the publication by the Armed Forces of the *AD-DIFA'* [Defense] magazine. It is the first specialized military publication dealing with military policy and strategic matters. It reflects Egyptian and Arab strategic military thinking and can thus discuss Arab security matters without arousing sensitivities. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War Production Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah attended the contract signing ceremony. Nasir Military Academy director Major General Ahmad Fakhr will be the magazine's chief editor. The contract was signed by Head of Military Research Authority Major General Farid Mutawalli and 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Bari, chairman of the *AL-AHRAM* organization which will cooperate with the Armed Forces in publishing the quarterly. [Text] [Cairo MAY Arabic 16 Jan 84 p 1 PM]

Armed Forces General Command Communique No 1,360

JN021649 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA) — A military communique issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command says that three enemy troops were killed and others wounded during the military operations carried out yesterday evening and today. It adds that the Iraqi forces destroyed three weapon emplacements, two infantry positions, and two hardware stockpiles in the central sector of the battlefield, east of Basra. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,360 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Army units are continuing their brave fight against the forces of the Iranian regime, which insists on continuing war, damage, and aggression. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units opened fire on several enemy troops opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing three, wounding others, and destroying one infantry position.

2. Our units opened artillery fire on the enemy positions and weapon emplacements opposite our positions east of Basra, and destroyed three weapon emplacements, one infantry position, and two hardware stockpiles.

3. This morning, the forces of the criminal Iranian enemy shelled Khurmal and Zurbatiyah and their environs with heavy artillery, damaging one house in Zurbatiyah.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 February 1984

Saddam Husayn Receives U.S. Envoy Murphy 2 Feb

JN021255 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] President Saddam Husayn today received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and South East Asia affairs. During the meeting, they reviewed the current Arab situation and international issues of common concern. Murphy briefed the president on the U.S. efforts in Lebanon. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the president's secretary attended the meeting.

Murphy Departs 2 Feb

JN021504 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA) — Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, left Baghdad today following a 1-day visit to Iraq.

Earlier today, the U.S. official met with President Saddam Husayn and reviewed with him the current Arab situation and international issues of common interest.

Memo to Arab League Protests Syrian Border Measures

JN021606 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, 2 Feb (INA) — The INA correspondent learned here today that Iraq has submitted an official memorandum to the 36th session of the Arab League's Economic and Social Council demanding the cancellation of the Syrian regime's decision to close its borders with Iraq and ban the flow of Iraqi oil via Syria.

The Iraqi memorandum, which is scheduled to be discussed by the Council in its session that will begin here on Monday, emphasizes that the Syrian regime's decision is in its entirety an obvious violation of the agreement regulating transit [ittifaqiyat tanzim an-naql bil-'ubur] which was signed in 1977. This agreement gives every signatory the right to use other signatories' ports for imports and exports.

The memorandum notes that the Syrian regime has violated Paragraph 4 of the agreement's Article 6 by granting privileges and facilities to a country that is not a party to that agreement — privileges and facilities that are equal to or more than those allowed under the provisions of the agreement.

In its memorandum, Iraq drew attention to the fact that the agreement regulating transit stipulates that political reasons should not prevent the implementation of the provisions of the agreement — a matter by which the Syrian regime has not abided.

Iraq called for the abrogation of the Syrian regime's measures against Iraq out of a commitment to the provisions of international agreements. It also called on the Secretariat General of the Arab League Council to follow up this subject and submit the results to the next meeting of the technical committee superivising the implementation of the agreement regulating transit.

It will be recalled that Iraq had submitted the abovementioned memorandum to the technical committee supervising the implementation of the agreement during its meeting in Tunis on the 12th of last month.

INA: Turkish-Iranian Border Closed 2 Feb

JN031018 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] Ankara, 3 Feb (INA) — A state of emergency has been declared in the border areas between Iran and Turkey, and the border post between the two countries was closed yesterday.

The newspaper *HURRIYET*, which reported this today, added that the state of emergency in the Armed Forces and the public security was declared after information was received that Iranian terrorists had infiltrated into Turkey.

The paper said that stringent security measures were in effect in the border area for several hours following the closure of the border post, and that search campaigns were carried out to look for five Iranian terrorists reported to have entered Turkish territory to carry out sabotage operations.

HURRIYET added that widescale search campaigns were carried out in the border areas with the support of additional gendarmerie forces.

The paper cited arrivals from the border areas as saying that the gendarmerie have established checkpoints in the border area every 50 meters in order to deal with any infiltration attempt by the Iranian terrorists, and that those returning to Turkey from Iran have been thoroughly searched since the border post reopened.

The agents of the Iranian and Syrian regimes carried out sabotage operations in Ankara, Istanbul, and Izmir on 21 December 1983.

Iranian Opposition To Demonstrate in London 8 Feb

JN021353 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] London, 2 Feb (INA) — The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization which opposes the Khomeyniite regime will stage a demonstration in London next Wednesday. Thousands of Iranian and foreign supporters will participate in the protest against the arrogant Iranian regime's criminal acts against the Iranian peoples.

In a statement to INA today, a spokesman for the organization said that the demonstration marks the occasion of the 2d anniversary of the Khomeyniite regime's assassination of Musa Khiabani, leader of the organization's resistance groups inside Iran. The spokesman added that the organization will stage similar demonstrations in various capitals of the world. The 8th of February will be a day of mourning in all Iranian cities and the resistance groups will escalate their military operations against the bloody Khomeyniite regime's establishments and aides on this day. The spokesman affirmed that on this occasion, the Iranian resistance council's armed groups will escalate their military operations against the Khomeynitte regime, under the slogan: Let all the rifles of the Iranian resistance unite in order to topple the Khomeyniite regime.

On the same level, the Iranian military league in Britain, which opposes the Khomeyniite regime, will stage another demonstration on 11 February 1984 in protest against the bloody Khomeyniite regime's massacres, executions, and mass arrests against the Iranian peoples that are opposing it. The league called on women participating in the demonstration to wear black clothes in mourning for those who were executed by the Khomeyniite regime.

Daily on Dismissal of Syrian Army Officers

JN021737 Baghdad ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Feb 84, p 2

[Article signed "Mu'ayyad" in the "Spotlight" column under the headline "Continued Confrontation"]

[Text] The decision of the Syrian regime's President Hafiz al-Asad to discharge 171 Syrian Army officers newly affirms Al-Asad's suspicion of the Syrian Armed Forces and their lack of loyalty to the regime. It also confirms the accuracy of the reports that have been carried by news agencies concerning increasing opposition to the bloody and terrorist Al-Asad regime, which is also hostile to the pan-Arab and popular will.

The Syrian regime not only discharged these officers but also imprisoned large number of them in its horrifying military jails — those that are being run by the henchmen of Rif'at al-Asad, Hafiz's brother and leader of the ill-reputed defense companies.

These measures confirm the link of this dismissal to the acute confrontation between the Syrian regime's establishments and the Army elements.

Syrian opposition sources highlighted these measures alluding to the fact that the dismissal of the Army officers is considered the greatest made by the treacherous Al-Asad regime since 1982, when it foiled a coup attempt in which 300 military men were executed, including 100 pilots.

These figures are cited by Muhammad al-Jarrah, member of the National Alliance To Liberate Syria.

The escalated rejection inside the Armed Forces of Al-Asad's directives, which are hostile to pan-Arab issues and the masses of our Syrian people, newly affirms the Syrian Armed Forces elements' clear and sound stand toward their people and nation as well as their opposition to the regime's conspiracy against the Palestinian revolution and involvement in the suspect plan to wipe out the PLO.

This is in addition to their rejection of the Syrian regime's disgraceful role in the Lebanese arena and its treacherous stand on the blatant Iranian aggression against Iraq.

Al-Asad is working within a blatant conspiracy to weaken the Syrian Armed Forces in order to serve an old Zionist objective, at a time when this regime has been boasting of the slogans of steadfastness, liberation, and confrontation of imperialists and Zionists — slogans that the regime has totally emptied of any serious meaning or content.

All facts indicate that the Syrian regime is unable to curb anger in the Syrian Army.

Thus, the Army officers' dismissal indicates the Army's increased rejection of the regime and its suspect practices, and exposes the state of internal isolation which the regime's president and its opportunist and suspect elements are witnessing.

Whoever reads the Syrian Army's history will realize the Syrian regime's impasse due to this acute confrontation between the men of the Syrian Armed Forces on the one hand and the treacherous and deviationist symbols of Al-Asad and his henchmen on the other.

Al-Masri on 'Arafat, Lebanon, RDF Report

JN030959 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Feb 84 pp 1, 15

[Text] Amman — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that Jordan and the PLO have been holding contacts at various levels in preparation for the expected meeting between His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Cahirman Yasir 'Arafat. Al-Masri said that 'Arafat and His Highness Prince Hasan met in Casablanca 10 days ago and that Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] met with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of a senior Jordanian officials.

The foreign minister said the talks between His Majesty King Husayn and Abu Jihad concentrated on general outlines of the requirements for the coming stage. He said that details will be discussed during 'Arafat's visit to Jordan.

During a meeting with a U.S. news delegation currently visiting Jordan, Al-Masri said that 'Arafat is holding consultations with Palestinian leaders and representatives in order to define a comprehensive plan for the next joint moves. He declared that the final date of 'Arafat's visit has not been set yet because of the engagements of both His Majesty King Husayn and 'Arafat. He noted that the visit may take place in the last week of next month.

Al-Masri added that the talks will begin where the Jordanian-Palestinian talks ended last April. He said the talks aim at finding a joint formula of action that will define the course of the Jordanian-Palestinian stands for the next stage of the Middle East peace issue. Al-Masri said that Arab parties, including Saudi Arabia, are acquainted with developments on this subject.

On his ideas for the coming stage, Al-Masri said Jordan seeks peace in exchange for land. Jordan is determined to exert every possible effort to achieve this objectve.

Al-Masri expressed the conviction that Israel does not want peace. It has always declared that it does not intend to relinquish the occupied Arab territories. He said that Israel's practices on the ground — establishing settlements, Judaizing the occupied territories, and attempting to apply Israeli law to the settlements in the occupied territories — confirm the Israeli trend.

On Jordan's role toward the Iraqi-Iranian war, Al-Masri said Jordan believes in the need to use all means to support Iraq in order to defend its territory in the face of the Iranian aggression. He added: Proceeding from this stand, Jordan gives all possible support to Iraq and is ready to fight at Iraq's side should Iraq ask and if circumstances call for it. However, he added, Iraq is now in an excellent position. It is capable of confronting Iran, and it does not need military support now.

On Jordan's stand on the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Lebanon, Al-Masri said: We support these forces' presence in Lebanon, because their withdrawal will have negative repercussions on both Lebanon and on the legitimate Lebanese authorities. He added that Jordan does not, however, support the peacekeeping forces' participation in Lebanon's internal disputes. He said these forces have carried out some actions that are contrary to the nature of their mission.

On the reports that $200 million worth of U.S. weapons will be used to form a rapid deployment force, Al-Masri said that purchasing U.S. arms is a continuous process and that this is not the first time this has been done. He added that these arms will be for the entire Jordanian Army, and consequently they will not be used to form special forces. The foreign minister added: We informed the Americans that any U.S. weapons we receive will become Jordanian weapons and will be used to serve Jordan's higher interests.

Foreign Minister Receives U.S. Delegation

JN021940 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri this evening met with a delegation from the Center for Strategic Studies at Georgetown University. Al-Masri briefed the delegation on recent political developments in the region. He stressed that Jordan seeks a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He said: We in Jordan believe in the principle of comprehensive peace in return for compelte withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Al-Masri also reviewed Israel's policy in the occupied territories — a policy aimed at Judaizing the occupied territories and expelling their legitimate owners.

Layla Sharaf on Parliamentary Life, Israeli Measures

JN021720 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — Information Minister Layla Sharaf has said that Jordan's restoration of parliamentary life is a step that will help it confront future challenges in a better way. During a reception for a delegation from the Center for Strategic Studies at Georgetown University today, the information minister added that Jordan has been and is still one of the major sides concerned about the liberation issue. She said that the absence of parliamentary life has never been an obstacle to this issue.

The information minister pointed out that the Israeli occupation authorities tried to make it difficult for some members of the House of Representatives in the occupied West Bank to participate in the House's first session. Moreover, the Israeli authorities actually prevented one of them from leaving for Amman.

Layla Sharaf pointed to the continuous measures of the Israeli occupation authorities regarding the establishment of more settlements and their attempts to Judaize the occupied Arab territories and empty them of their legitimate owners. She said this policy prevents the region from achieving a just and lasting peace. She called on the United States to put real pressure on Israel to stop the settlements so that a just solution to the Palestinian question can be reached.

The information minister reviewed the stages of the Palestinian question and the Israeli measures against citizens in the occupied Arab territories.

Vote of Confidence Recorded; 'Ubaydat Remarks

JN022111 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — The government of Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat gained a vote of confidence this afternoon by a vote of 46 votes in favor and 2 against. This came during a 7-hour House of Representatives session today under Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz. Forty-eight representatives attended the session.

At the conclusion of the discussions, Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat delivered a speech in which he replied to the points raised by the representatives during their discussion of the Cabinet's policy statement. The prime minister pointed to the government's efforts to support the steadfastness of the kinfolk in the occupied Arab territories in the face of the Israeli authorities' plans to divest the land of its legitimate owners.

'Ubaydat stressed that the government seeks to create a food surplus that would enable Jordan to confront any foreign threat and supply the Kingdom for at least 6 months under any circumstances. 'Ubaydat said the establishment of the Ministry of Supply came as a result of the food shortages in the world. The government has confined the importation of basic foodstuffs to the Ministry of Supply in order to supply them in sufficient quantities at reasonable prices and with good quality. The prime minister added that the most important point is to maintain a strategic reserve inside the country. He said this is an essential matter that we lacked in the past. The prime minister said: Thank God, we now have a reserve that is considered a basic pillar of food security.

The House of Representatives stressed its support for His Majesty King Husayn's wise leadership and its appreciation for the king's decision to restore Jordan's parliamentary life. The members of the House of representatives who spoke during the discussions praised the Cabinet's policy statement and said that it represents a working plan for the government during the future stage of the nation's history.

The representatives called on fraternal Arab states to fulfill their commitments to Jordan so that it can obtain modern and sophisticated equipment for the Jordanian Armed Forces and they can thus remain the shield of the homeland and barrier of the nation. The representatives also greeted the kinfolk in the occupied territores for their heroic steadfastness in the face of the Israeli occupation's designs aimed at divesting the land of its legitimate owners

Prince Hasan Receives Australian Foreign Minister

JN021502 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Amman, 2 Feb (PETRA) — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, this morning received the Australian Foreign Minister and the delegation accompanying him, which is currently visiting Jordan. His highness and the guest minister reviewed the situation in the Middle East in general and in the occupied Arab territories in particular in light of Israel's expansionist and settlements policy. Prince Hasan and the Australian foreign minister also discussed bilateral relations and practical means of promoting agricultural and economic cooperation.

Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side were the court minister; the foreign minister; the trade, industry, and tourism minister; the minister of agriculture; the Central Bank governor; and the Jordanian ambassador to Australia. Attending on the Australian side were the delegation accompanying the Australian foreign minister and the Australian ambassador in Amman.

Hayden Departs Amman

JN021627 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Australian Foreign Minister William Hayden and the delegation accompanying him left Amman today following a 2-day visit to Jordan. He was seen off at Amman airport by the foreign minister, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, and the Australian ambassador in Amman.

Saudi Minister Assures Salim of Continued Support

NC021806 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] In view of reports of a statement attributed to Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah on the need for the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Lebanon, Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim today contacted Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal by phone and inquired about the truth of that statement. The Saudi minister informed Minister Salim that his country's position toward Lebanon is firm and has not changed, and assured him that Prince 'Abdallah's statement may have been distorted.

Reported National Salvation Front Initiative

Shaykhani: Regime Awaits Plan

NC021754 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Although the aims of the wide-scale security escalation and concomitant information campaigns have become clear, and although the results of the Arab and international contacts regarding implementation of the security plan have been vague, the regime has persisted in its political and diplomatic efforts to achieve a result. Although the plan is not an end in itself, it does constitute a step toward a somewhat relatively secure stability. While views and initiatives have been forwarded by more than one side, the state has announced its openness to any dialogue as long as it leads to salvation. However, it is noticed that the talk on political initiatives has been accompanied by an escalation in the security situation, the aims of which have become known, and through statements that the security plan is a waste of time and that a decisive battle is inevitable. Such statements will only increase the division and leave the homeland and citizen at the mercy of fire and fate.

Justice and Information Minister Roger Shaykhani today replied to a question regarding a reported political initiative the National Salvation Front intends to submit. He said: The state is open to any political solution and dialogue. The regime is awaiting this initiative about which Walid Junblatt has spoken, especially now that the president of the Republic has repeatedly stated his openness to any dialogue and declared that all subjects are negotiable. Minister Shaykhani expressed the hope that this initiative will be submitted to the second Geneva conference, because fruitful and useful discussions could take place at the negotiating table as was the case at the first Geneva conference.

The two members of the National Salvation Front, [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah and Rashid Karami, are expected to visit Damascus on Monday to meet with Mr Junblatt and Syrian officials. A number of political figures will also visit Damascus in response to invitations extended to them.

Junblatt on Initiative

NC030930 Beirut THE DAILY STAR in English 2 Feb pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] Druze leader Walid Junblatt, an unyielding opponent of the Lebanese Government, said Wednesday that peace efforts were a waste of time and that "a decisive battle is coming and inevitable."

Junblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], made his prediction of a wider conflict between his Syrian-supported forces and the government of President Amin al-Jumayyil in a speech inaugurating the Druze radio station "Voice of the Mountain."

Wednesday night, Junblatt said the opposition National Salvation Front would announce a new political initiative soon to end the crisis in Lebanon. He said the plan would be presented to Lebanese, Arab, and international public opinion, but gave no details. Junblatt said the National Salvation Front, an alliance of Lebanese opposition groups, including his own PSP, would discuss the plan with other Lebanese political and religious leaders.

According to press reports, a number of Lebanese leaders, including two prime ministers, have been invited to Damascus for talks.

A Druze statement issued in Beirut later accused the government of rejecting any serious effort to reach a political agreement and of "feverishly pursuing military action."

Replying to the government's charge that the PSP was rejecting the security plan without offering an alternative, it said political agreement had to precede the plan, and offered a three-point program for achieving such agreement:

1. Convening of a new round of national reconciliation talks that began in Geneva last November, with a pre-announced agenda;

2. Pursuit of a basic political accord to overcome the Lebanese crisis;

3. A clear government statement on the May 17, 1983, troop withdrawal agreement with Israel, which Syria and some Lebanese groups want abrogated.

Reportage on National Front Contacts

Junblatt, Karami in Tripoli

NC030917 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, arrived in Tripoli a short while ago accompanied by Marwan Hamadah, Khalid Junblatt, Riyad Ra'd, and 'Abdallah al-Amin. Junblatt met with [former Prime Minister] Rashid Karami.

Front Convenes in Zgharta

NC031148 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The National Salvation Front is now convening at [former] President Sulayman Franjiyah's palace in Zgharta. Attending the meeting are Sulayman Franjiyah, [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid

Junblatt. The meeting is also being attended by former Ministers Narwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, Deputy Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rafi'i, 'Abdallah al-Amin, and Ramiz Khazin.

The meeting commenced at 1250 upon the arrival of Rashid Karami.Walid Junblatt and his delegation arrived in Tripoli this morning and held a meeting with Rashid Karami, and then left for Zgharta to meet with Sulayman Franjiyah.

Junblatt Warns of Approaching 'Fateful Battle'

JN031247 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] In a press statement today to the Italian newspaper *LA REPUBBLICA*, Walid Junblatt reiterated that the war in Lebanon will continue and that a fateful battle will erupt within the next few days if no radical democratic reform of the Lebanese political system takes place.

Junblatt reiterated his call for Al-Jumayyil's resignation and the Multinational Force's withdrawal from Lebanon. He held U.S. President Ronald Reagan responsible for the current military escalation, because of his continuing support of the dictatorial and unpopular regime in Lebanon. Junblatt said that a resumption of the Geneva conference is out of the question under the present circumstances.

Birri: Army, U.S. Shelling Furthers Fighting

NC030655 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party radio formerly known as "Voice of Truth"]

[Text]Our security correspondent has reported that fierce clashes continue to rage in [Beirut's] southern suburb, and that Amal movement fighters still hold the positions they seized yesterday. Our correspondent added that the Amal fighters continue to hold the bodies of 15 soldiers of the factional army killed during last night's battle. The Amal movement sources, on the other hand, affirm that its fighters are holding 15 soldiers of the factional army who were captured last night in the Mar Mikha'il-ash-Shiyyah battles.

Commenting on the battles raging since last night on the suburb and mountain combat axes; following the crimes that the factional army has repeatedly commited against the defenseless innocent citizens; following the failure of all political contacts to halt the fighting due to the factional army's obdurate position and insistence on shelling the residential areas; and since the U.S. battleship *New Jersey* is participating in the shelling on behalf of the factional army, [Amal leader] Nabih Birri has declared that he will not cease the fighting and will continue the battle fully supported by Walid Junblatt, because it has been proved that this regime and its symbols seek to uproot the Druze and Shi'ites from Lebanon.

West Beirut Leaders Summoned to Damascus for Talks

JN021437 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Feb 84

[George Bashir dispatch from Beirut]

[Excerpt] Military information received by Lebanese officials in Beirut on the entry at dawn today of an Syrian armored brigade from the Al-Biqa' valley into the mountain area has caused concern in all circles. The brigade deployed and took up positions in several areas of the mountain. Meanwhile, the security organs discovered a cache of ammunition, weapons, and explosives in Corniche al-Mazra'ah, Beirut. The haphazard shelling of the residential areas and Army positions continued yesterday and today.

Official sources have indicated that all of these negative developments are taking place because outside quarters are insisting on aggravatiing the political and security situation to embarrass the Lebanese Government on the one hand, and the United States and its allies on the other. Lebanon is paying the price of this security and political escalation in the form of more dead and wounded who fell yesterday and today including a senior Army officer in addition to the destruction inflicted on public and private property and the suspension of school classes and factories, which are suffering from a strangling economic crisis.

It was confirmed this morning that the Syrian Government summoned several West Beirut political figures to Damascus with the aim of forcing them to adopt an anti-government stand toward the U.S. and Western presence in Beirut and toward the 17 May agreement; a stand harmonious with the one Junblatt announced yesterday in this regard.

The Lebanese Government has thus far not announced any official position on this issue, although its sources consider the step adopted by Damascus as interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs.

KUNA: Lebanese Figure Denies Role in 'Free Lebanon'

LD022026 Kuwait KUNA in English 1847 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Beirut, Feb 2 (KUNA) — A military command council has been formed to lead the "Republic of Free Lebanon" expected to be declared by Israeli-sponsored militia leaders in the south of the country, informed sources told KUNA.

The sources said that the "republic", to be declared according to Lebanese press reports as a successor to former renegade Major Sa'd Haddad's "State of Free Lebanon", had also been alloted a number of military sub-committees to run its day-to-day affairs.

The "republic" is expected to be nominally headed by "president" Clovis Francis, and run by a command council comprising Haddad's successor as head of the "Army of Free Lebanon," Lieutenant Shirobi Barakat, as well as other militia warlords.

It is expected to include Shawqi 'Abdallah, who heads a self-styled "United Southern Grouping", and Haydar al-Dayakh of the "(karbala) forces", and will run Haddad's army, the

"Southern Lebanese Army", and the "National Guard". These are minor militias set up by occupying Israeli forces to act as their policemen in the south, and have gained notoriety among local citizens for brutality and death-squad murders.

Meanwhile, southern Lebanese Deputy Qasim al-Khalil, a traditional political figure from the Tyre area, denied reports that his family was included in a list of southern notables to be involved in the running of the so-called "republic". Al-Khalil's family has a private militia which taxes all boats using Tyre harbor under the patronage of occupying Israeli forces. He is also a member of Camille Sham'un's National Liberal Party, which is a member of the rightist Phalangist-dominated "Lebanese Front" grouping.

Reportage on Deteriorating Security Situation

Mountain, Beirut Area Clashes

NC021417 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] A security source reports that two shells fell in the Al-Fayyadiyah area [in Beirut] at 1545 today.

Army positions in 'Ayn Ksur have been coming under antitank weapon and mortar fire since 1515 today. The shelling extended to Qurs al-Mudawwar, 'Aytat, Shimlan, and Kayfun.

Clashes with various types of weapons are continuing on the axes of Old Sidon Road, Sannin, Al-Barid, and Al-Matahin in Beirut's southern suburb.

Cease-Fire Talks Fail

NC021805 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Another day of tension is being witnessed in Beirut's southern suburb and the mountain and Al-Kharrub region as a result of the continued shelling of Lebanese Army positions and residential quarters by Junblattist gunmen and their allies. The Army returned heavy fire to defend its positions. This afternoon's shelling extended to Jumhur, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Hazimiyah, Camile Sham'un Boulevard, 'Ayn ar-Rummanah's suburbs, B'abda, Bitshay, Al-Hadath, Sinn al-Fil, ad-Dikwanah, and Bayt Miri. The shelling is presently concentrated on Al-Hazimiyah, Al-Fayyadiyah, and the Presidential Palace perimeter. Rocket launchers in the mountain are firing indiscriminately at those areas, resulting in a number of fires. Army positions in 'Aytat, Kayfun, Qurs al-Mudawwar, and Suq al-Gharb have come under artillery fire from gunmen's positions in the western quarter of 'Alayh and Shimlan, accompanied by infiltration attempts by Junblattists and Palestinians which the Lebanese Army repulsed.

Our correspondent reports that projectiles have been falling on Kasrawan coast in the Zuq Mikha'il and Bkirki areas for the past 3 minutes. He adds that the Palestinians have been entrusted with the task of shelling the residential quarters, therefore making it advisable that citizens take the necessary precautions.

While the mountain was in turmoil, the situation in Beirut's southern suburb deteriorated seriously when armed men opened fire on the Lebanese Army with rocket and automatic weapons. Contacts have failed to achieve a cease-fire, and the clashes continue to this moment. Reports indicate a number of wounded and heavy material damage.

PSP Denies Losing Four Tanks

NC021932 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] We have received the following from the editorial room: The Army Command initially saw with only one eye; now it seems it doesn't see at all. It has reported that it has destroyed four of our tanks. We would like to clarify that those four tanks belonged to the factional army. Furthermore, we affirm that the tanks are still burning near the Hajjar Hotel in Suq al-Gharb.

PSP on U.S. Naval Shelling

NC021911 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] At 1645 today, the towns of 'Aynab, 'Ayn Traz, 'Ayn 'Nub, Baysur, Ru'aysat an-N'uman, and Qabr Shmun received heavy shelling from Howitzers. At 1700, the town of Qurnayil received heavy artillery shelling from the fascist positions in Brummana and Bayt Miri. Six rounds of artillery shells also fell on the town of Ash-Shabaniyah, and shells also rained on Btatir, Majdal Ba'na, and surrounding areas.

In the Al-Kharrub region, the villages of Siblin and Al-Wardaniyah came under mortar fire from the Ar-Rumaylah area. The town of Al-Jahiliyah in Ash-Shuf also was shelled by the fascist Phalangist guns in Ad-Dubbiyah. As a result of the savage shelling of the Al-Matn area, three citizens were martyred and three others wounded. The shelling of the southern suburb extended from 'Abd an-Nasir Street to the Burj al-Barajinah camp.

The villages of the steadfast mountain continue to be subjected to indiscriminate shelling. The Progressive Socialist Party artillery is answering the hostile positions and their artillery emplacements.

Regarding the battles raging in the southern suburb, the Voice of the Mountain has learned that the Nationalist Forces have controlled the Al-Hayah hospital axis after occupying positions in the Mar Mikhayil axis which were shelling the residential buildings in Ash-Shiyah. The Nationalist Forces also repulsed several attempts by the treacherous army to regain its positions, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment. During the battles, two rocket launchers for the Phalangist factional army were destroyed near the As-Sayyad traffic circle and the army's ammunition dumps located in this densely populated area were blown up. U.S. naval guns participated in the shelling which the army began on the quarters of the southern suburb. A short while ago, we learned from an Amal movement security source that the fighters in the suburb are preparing to repulse any operation

which the factional army might carry out to regain its positions on the Al-Hayal hospital axis.

U.S. Military Involvement Denied

NC021956 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] This afternoon and evening have been marked by one of the most violent rounds of Syrian and Junblattist savagery yet, with no region within range of their batteries spared. The bombardment has covered residential areas in East Beirut, the District of B'abda, and particularly the areas around the palace and the Defense Ministry in Al-Yarzi, North al-Matn and Kasrawan, apart from all the Lebanese Army positions.

The random shelling was continuing after the time of our going on the air, while battles were raging on the mountain front and in the southern suburbs between the Lebanese Army and the Syrian-Junblattist-communist alliance.

The fighting in the suburbs erupted when communist and Khomeyniist armed gangs under cover of a heavy artillery and rocket barrages tried to advance on Lebanese Army positions at Mar Mikhayil and near Al-Hayah hospital. However, the Army [words indistinct] and repulsed it vigorously. Shortly afterward, the Lebanese troops launched a counteroffensive, encircling the infiltrators at Mar Mikhayil and inflicting heavy losses.

At the same time the Lebanese Army was energetically answering the Syrian and Junblattist artillery fire on all fronts, particularly directing fire on 'Aramun and Ash-Shuwayfat where batteries were bombarding Lebanese positions at Khaldah, Ad-Dawhah, and Radio Orient. The Lebanese Army also shelled Syrian and Junblattist positions in Baysur, 'Aytat, and 'Alayh which were firing at the Army in Suq al-Gharb, 'Ayn Ksur, and [place name indistinct].

The residential areas covered by the Syrian-socialist bombardment were the surroundings of Al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn Ar-Rummanah, Furn ash-Shubbak, Jisr al-Basha, Sinn al-Fil, Al-Hazimiyah, B'abda, Al-Fayyadiyah, Kafr Shima, Wadi Shuhrur, Sibnay, Bitshay, and Al-Hadath, as well as the central and coastal regions of North al-Matn and Kasrawan.

A spokesman for the U.S. Marines in Beirut has denied that the Marines' compound near the airport was submitted to shelling or that U.S. naval guns had returned any fire.

Army Seeks To Reoccupy Positions

NC021802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1745 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] A military source explained a short while ago that this afternoon Army positions in the areas of Mar Mikha'il, Hayy al-Mu'allim, and Hayy al-Baladiyah [in Beirut's southern suburb] were attacked by armed groups using all types of weapons. The armed men eventually occupied these positions. The military source added: The Army is now trying to regain these positions, push back the armed men, and clear the area.

Contacts Increased for Cease-Fire

NC022051 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The security situation remains serious. Security sources reported that violent clashes continue on the axes of Beirut's southern suburb, involving all types of weapons. Shells are falling on many areas in Kasrawan, Al-Matn, the mountain, the southern suburb, and Beirut. Contacts were stepped up tonight to halt the security deterioration, particularly on the axes of the southern suburb.

Security Update

NC022046 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] According to the latest reports from security quarters, the areas of Sinn al-Fil, Ad-Dikwanah, and Al-Judaydah [in the Beirut area] are now receiving concentrated artillery fire, while the artillery duel on the Suq al-Gharb front is continuing.

The Army is continuing its operations in Beirut's southern suburb to regain the positions which the gunmen occupied this afternoon. The Army has covered much ground in this operation.

Meanwhile, the security sources said with regard to reports today that Zahlah was shelled that although four shells fell on its outskirts at 2000, the city itself was not shelled. There is no currently available information regarding casulties as a result of the shelling.

Army Regains Suburb Positions

NC030552 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] A security source reports that shelling continues intermittently in the Mar Mikhayil-Galerie Sim'an-'Ayn ar-Rummanah area [in Beirut]. These areas came under artillery fire at the rate of 3 shells per minute at 0535. Clashes broke out at 0540 in the mountain, 'Ayn Ksur, and Suq al-Gharb, where Army positions came under artillery fire. The Army returned fire.

We point out that the Army has regained all of its positions in Beirut's southern suburb, during which they suffered one dead and five wounded, one critically. The wounded have been moved to the military hospital.

Zahlah Shelling Casualties

NC030614 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] Early this morning the city of Zahlah came under intermittent shelling at 0420 from an Amal movement position in Na-Nasiriyah near Riyaq and a Syrian position near Shtawrah. The shelling lasted 15 minutes and was renewed at 0605. The city came under similar shelling last night resulting in the deaths of two citizens and the wounding of several others.

MNF, Civilian Casualties

NC030709 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Excerpts] An Italian soldier was hit in the head and a French soldier was wounded in West Beirut during yesterday's fighting. Sources report that the civilian casualty toll in yesterday's and this morning's battles is 10 dead and 35 wounded.

Al-Yarzi Area Shelled

NC030637 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] We have just received a report that artillery fire is now being concentrated on the Al-Yarzi area [in Beirut].

Two Army Tanks Destroyed

NC030700 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The factional army attempted to advance on the Qabr Shmun-'Ayn Ksur axis at 0500 today. The Progressive Socialist Party fighters checked the attempt, forcing a factional Phalangist army retreat, during which two destroyed tanks were abandoned.

Cease-Fire Reached; Airport Normal

NC030656 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0645 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Telephone dispatch from the NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY's editorial room — live]

[Text] A cease-fire agreement was reached a short while ago, and will be implemented at exactly 0900. We point out that airport operations are normal despite the violence.

Beirut Updates Army Casualties

NC030710 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] One soldier was killed and two others wounded at dawn today during the Army's redeployment in Mar Mikhayil, Hayy al-Mu'alliam, and Al-Baladiyah. Two soldiers were killed and six others wounded last night.

Cease-Fire Partially Observed

NC030817 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The cease-fire agreement reached at 0830 this morning has been almost totally implemented in Greater Beirut as of 0900. However, the situation in the mountain is still somewhat tense as shots are being exchanged. Security sources asserted guarded calm is now prevailing in the scene of the clashes after the Army took control of all positions that the gunmen occupied yesterday. Comparative quiet is reigning now and there is partial abidance to the cease-fire.

Army Command Denies Mutiny

NC031007 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0948 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Statement by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate on 3 February]

[Text] The Army Command dismisses reports disseminated by a sector of the media that a statement has been issued by the 1st Infantry Brigade in the Al-Biqa' to the effect that it has adopted a position independent from the Army Command. The Army Command affirms that this report is completely baseless.

The Army Command has previously stated that it does not plan to storm Beirut's southern suburb and that its forces are abiding by the cease-fire. These forces, however, will be compelled to retaliate whenever their safety and the citizens' security are endangered.

Marine Positions Shelled

NC031124 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1059 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] Shellfire is being directed against the airport periphery, where the U.S. Marines are positioned. Grad missiles are now falling on the periphery of Al-Hayat Hospital and Mar Mikha'il, where the Lebanese Army managed to regain its positions. A Palestinian military truck was seen burning on the road facing Mar Mikha'il and the Airport circle.

Beirut Area Clashes Resume

NC031137 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The cease-fire which was scheduled to enter into force at 0900 today did not hold, as shelling and artillery exchanges resumed on the various axes. Shells fell on Al-Luwayzah and Al-Hazimiyah [in the Beirut area] at 1100, while sniper fire was directed at Kayfun at 1200. Shells fell between the Science College and Sibnay [in Beirut]. However, the clashes on the axes of Beirut's southern suburb eased.

Two shells landed on the northern runway of Beirut Airport at 1210. An Airport Security Department source reported a short while ago that two shells landed on the airport's eastern runway, causing material damage. He added that air traffic has not been affected and is thus far progressing normally.

The shelling of the periphery of the Presidential Palace killed a member of the Republican Guard Brigade.

Shells fell on Mar Mikha'il and Tallat Hunayn [in Beirut] at 1215, while other shells fell near the U.S. ambassador's house in B'abda. An embassy spokesman said shrapnel smashed some windows but that no one was hurt.

A spokesman for the French contingent said a French soldier was slightly wounded during the shelling.

At 1215 shells fell on Mar Mikha'il and near the U.S. Marine positions. Other shells, fired from Hayy as-Sullum, fell on Tallat Sannin.

Zahlah Shelling Casualties

NC031153 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] It was reported a short while ago that Zahlah, in the Al-Biqa', came under artillery fire again around noon. Two persons were killed and two others wounded. It has been learned that gunmen asked that Bikfayya be shelled and destroyed. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has undertaken this.

Army Statement on Fighting

NC031213 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Statement issued by the Army Command on 3 February]

[Text] On the afternoon of 2 February, armed groups in Beirut's southern suburb attacked the Army's positions in Mar Mikha'il and its vicinity, killing three soldiers and wounding several others. The Army counterattacked during the night and regained its positions. An agreement to cease fire at 0900 today was reached. This was announced through the media. However, gunmen continued to fire on our positions. The Army Command has no intention of attacking the southern suburb. The Armed Forces are abiding by the cease-fire, but will be compelled to retaliate whenever their safety and the security of the citizens are endangered. The Army belongs to the sons of the suburb, as it belongs to all Lebanese citizens. Its aim is to restore tranquillity and security to all of Lebanon. The Army harbors no evil toward any citizen.

Shelling Near UK Contingent

NC031143 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] Twelve shells fell near the British forces' positions in the Al-Warwar area [in Beirut] at 1315. They were fired from Ash-Shuwayfat.

B'abda Area Shelling Intensifies

NC031200 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1152 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The B'abda area and its environs are now coming under concentrated artillery fire. The Army positions in Mar Mikha'il are coming under RPG and sniper fire. A military source said the Army has thus far observed the cease-fire but will retaliate if the violations continue.

RFL on 3 Feb Situation

NC031222 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1155 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The latest security information reports that the Lebanese Army is holding its positions on the Al-Hayah Hospital axis, Al-Amirkan Quarter along Old Sidon Road in Beirut. Its positions there continue to be shelled by Syrian and Junblattist mountain positions.The Palestinians, Khomeynites, and their associates have not been able to advance.

The latest reports say the Army has recaptured the old municipality building on the Mar Mikha'il axis, where battles with machine guns and rockets are raging. However, the clashes have eased in the other axes.

A short while ago intensive contacts were held between the concerned leaderships aimed at halting the deterioration of the situation. It has been learned that the Amal movement has issued orders to some of its and its allies positions, calling on them to cease their attacks on the mountain positions. However, those orders have not been implemented thus far, although the intensity of the fighting has diminished. Security sources report that approximately 5 minutes ago a number of shells fell in the vicinity of the Presidential Palace and other areas in B'abda. These shells came from Syrian and Junblattist mountain positions.

VOL Reports Israeli Overflights 3 Feb

NC031126 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] Two Israeli Kfir planes broke the sound barrier over Beirut 15 minutes ago. Israeli planes flew over the south, the Al-Biqa', and north this morning.

PSP's Voice of Mountain Programming Schedule

WA031506 [Editorial Report] The Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP]radio inaugurated daily broadcasting at 0430 GMT on 1 February. Most of the programming is in Arabic; two news summaries were given in French and English at 1430 and 1637 GMT, respectively. The station is on the air from 0430 to 2115 GMT on 1080 khz. Initial announcements indicate that the station is identifying itself as the "Voice of the Mountain, the voice of all nationalists in all of Lebanon." This is the same pro-Druze Walid Junblatt PSP radio previously identified as the "Voice of Truth." Arabic programming on the day of inauguration, 1 February, consisted of four primary newscast periods at 0630, 1230, 1730, and 2100 GMT. News summaries were given approximately every hour on the hour, while "flash" bulletins were carried during the 1700-2115 GMT period. An address by PSP leader Walid Junblatt was carried at 0802 GMT.

In addition to entertainment-type programs, there were statements on the inauguration of the "Voice of the Mountain" by Shaykh Muhammad Abu Shagra, religious head of the Druze community; Former Minister Marwan Hamadah; Druze Princess Khawlah Arslan; Amal leader Nabir Birri; Deputy Najah Wakim; and the director general, Ghazi al-'Aridi.

Khaddam Receives Junblatt, U.S. Envoy
JN021324 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] In Damascus the Syrian foreign minister today received Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt in the presence of Khalid Junblatt, Marwan Hamadah, and 'Abdallah al-Amin. U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Robert Paganelli joined the meeting. The conferees discussed the military escalation in Lebanon. The meeting lasted about 2 hours.

Commentary Views Al-Asad Remarks on U.S. Policy
JN021600 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, our only option is to defend ourselves. The United States cannot settle matters militarily in this region. By these words, President al-Asad defined Syria's stands and the real situation in the region.

The United States cannot see the reality of the situation except through the Israeli view. It refuses to balance its policy with its international importance. It considers strength to be its only option to impose its conditions of hegemony and its will in supporting Zionist expansionism against the Arab nation. The Reagan administration believes that Syria is like Grenada and that U.S. power is able to destroy Syria's will and pan-Arab steadfastness. But the fact which the whole world is aware of is that power works for and in defense of those who are in the right. Syria is neither extremist nor an opponent of solutions as U.S. officials have described it; Syria supports its own rights and the Arab nation's will.

When the United States ignores the danger as seen by the United Nations and the peoples that are affected by Middle East peace and stability; when it considers peace only in terms of Israel obtaining security guarantees at the Arab citizens' expense and land; and when it subjugates the region's events to the logic of force — represented by the U.S. massing its naval forces or by arranging the situation in light of the joint U.S.-Israeli interests — the U.S. Administration thus creates serious circumstances. The United States approaches the situation in a way in which U.S. and European politicans have warned of; because force will inevitably collide with force, limited wars will become extensive wars, and destruction will reach both warring sides.

If President Reagan, as Al-Asad has said, is more concerned with the weight of the gun more than the weight of principle, then Syria is greatly concerned about providing its principled stand with all possible support and firmness. It will use all its economic, military, and human resources to add weight to the principle and to strengthen its weapons in order to solidify and assert this principle.

President al-Asad gave the United States two choices: either withdrawing from Lebanon or becoming militarily involved in Lebanon. He thus holds the United States directly responsible for the events in the brother country — those events that jeopardize Lebanon's unity and independence because the U.S. Marines have become part of the current fighting and because the U.S.-Israeli partnership in all the Zionists' aggressions against the Arabs has become a fact. Because Lebanon is an Arab country and its people are deeply tied with the Arab nation, the United States has no right to make itself a custodian of Lebanon and its people. It also has no right to consider itself closer to the Lebanese people than their Arab brothers, particularly in Syria.

Since Syria is certain that every U.S. political or military effort in the region has been directed against the Arab nation in favor of Zionist expansionism, the Reagan administration must now expect the opposite of what it imagined and the opposite of what the planners of U.S. policy in the CIA and the Pentagon labryinth also imagined. How can Syria trust the United States at a time when the U.S. forces are massing close to Syria's border? How can Syria believe the United States at a time when the United States disavows Arab rights and seriously seeks to entrench Israel's occupation in the Arab territory?

Syria, which has confidence in the soundness and seriousness of its stands, the support of world public opinion for its demands, and the determination of its people to shoulder their national and pan-Arab responsibilities, will not be intimidated by the terrorist U.S. plans and arrangements. For the United States to be serious about its concern over peace, it must respond positively to the world community's will. Otherwise, its other means and various methods will not save its reputation or make it achieve its objectives. Syria, as its leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad has said, has no option but to defend itself.

Al-Ahmar Addresses Arab Lawyers Delegation
JN021837 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, briefed an Arab Lawyers Union delegation on the latest developments in Lebanon, the Palestinian situation, and the U.S.-Zionist onslaught to subjugate Lebanon, liquidate the Palestinian issue, and commit aggression against Syria in an attempt to eliminate it, considering it an obstacle to the imperialist scheme to dominate the Arab region.

Upon receiving Brother Faruq Abu 'Isa, chairman of the Arab Lawyers Union, the Union's assistant secretary general, and several brother members of the Union's permanent bureau, Comrade al-Ahmar emphasized Syria's principled, steadfast role in defending the Arab nation's rights in Lebanon, Palestine, and all of the Arab homeland. He also emphasized Syria's role in bravely confronting the continuous plotting and aggression for the sake of liberating the Arab territories and enabling the Palestinian people to restore their usurped rights under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic. Comrade al-Ahmar also emphasized that the road of the agents and their masters is blocked. He said that the Camp David trend, with its appendices and branches, and all the aims of U.S. imperialism are doomed to fail because Syria and the Arab masses will remain an arena of confrontation against all agents and aggressors.

Cabinet To Discuss Karp Report in 5 Feb Session

TA031125 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Feb 84 p 1, 3

[Report by Gad Ya'or and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpts] Jews who are suspected of committing very serious criminal acts in the territories — including murders, attempted murders, shooting at Arabs, theft of arms, arson, and throwing hand grenades — were not detained and were not brought to trial by the police. This was due to interference by "high echelons" — including top military officers — who disrupted police investigations in these cases.

These facts are included in the Karp report, and this may be one of the reasons which influenced top sources in the government and the IDF not to publish the report until now. Yesterday these facts were made known to *YEDI'OT AHARONOT* correspondents.

The Cabinet will discuss the report in its weekly session on Sunday. The report denounces the interference by IDF authorities in a number of cases in which the police claimed they had all the necessary evidence to press charges against inhabitants from various settlements for committing serious criminal acts. IDF officers "directed" that the investigation of some cases be stopped and the police were forced to drop the investigation against some of the leaders of the Judaea and Samaria settlements, some of whom serve as security officers in the settlements.

The report will also be submitted next week to the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee. It is to be hoped that at least part of the report will be made public early next week.

Our correspondent Ya'ir 'Amiqam adds: The IDF spokesman refused to react to this report and said that the IDF would react only after the official publication of the Karp report.

Falling Imports, Wage Erosion Blamed for Tax Loss

TA030810 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Falling imports and wage erosion caused a sharp drop in tax payments last month. Figures released yesterday by the Treasury revealed that revenue was 24.4 percent less in real terms in January than in January 1983.

The Treasury collected some IS67 billion in taxes last month, as compared to IS30 billion in January 1983. In real terms, however, January tax revenue was three quarters of what it was a year ago.

The ministry added that in the April '83-January '84 period, it collected some IS516 billion, as compared to IS204B. in the previous year. This represents an increase of 1.2 percent in real terms, caused by the rise in tax collection in the early part of the year.

Economic observers in Jerusalem maintain that the sharp decline in government revenue during the last few months has forced the Treasury to print money to finance its expenditures. This explains the large monetary injection of recent months, despite the drop in government activity, these observers say.

The ministry said the decline in income tax collection resulted from the drop in real wages and less revenue from levies on the sale of shares on the stock exchange.

The Treasury noted that levies imposed to finance the war in Lebanon which were collected in January 1983 were no longer in effect last month.

The continued drop in imports also left its mark on tax revenue. The customs department collected some IS9B. in import duties, as compared to IS4.8B. in January 1983, a 36.6 percent drop in real terms.

Value added tax revenue dropped 21.2 percent, reflecting signs of recession.

The total tax collections for January amounted to IS10.1.B., as compared to IS4.3.B. in January 1983.

Majority Favors Unconditional Lebanon Withdrawal

TA030949 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Feb 84 p 1

[PORI poll]

[Text] Three times as many people believe that the IDF must now unconditionally withdraw from all of Lebanon's territory than those who believe that the IDF must remain in Lebanon, according to a nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the PORI Institute and commissioned by *HA'ARETZ*.

Some 39.5 percent of those polled believe that the IDF must unconditionally withdraw from all of Lebanon compared with 14 percent who said that the IDF should not withdraw.

Another 18.5 percent believe that the IDF should withdraw from Lebanon but only on the condition that the Syrians also withdraw. Some 15.1 percent think that the IDF should withdraw to new lines, farther to the south, while 8.9 percent are of the opinion that the IDF must withdraw from Lebanon "only if Israel's northern border is safe." The remaining 4 percent did not have an opinion on the subject.

The number of those justifying "all the war moves in Lebanon" is constantly decreasing. In contrast with 70.4 percent who justified the Lebanese war in April 1981 [year as published], 65.9 percent in July 1982, 45.3 percent in October 1982 and 40.9 percent in March 1983, the number of those justifying all the war moves has now dropped to 31.3 percent.

Some 38 percent only justify the avowed objective of the Peace for Galilee campaign, namely, driving the terrorists 40 km away from the border.

The poll was conducted on a representative sample of 1,200 women and men who were given individual interviews throughout the country.

Explosion Incident Near Border Town Reported

TA021341 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1326 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] A bomb exploded this afternoon near Qil', 3 km west of Metulla. No one was hurt. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that the bomb exploded near a barricade erected by the civilian militia affiliated with Major Sa'd Haddad's army. Our correspondent also points out that this is the second time in less than a week that a bomb has exploded in the vicinity of Lebanese villages very close to the Israeli border.

IDF Spokesman Clarifies Report

TA021749 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The IDF spokesman has clarified that no bomb went off in Qil', some 2 [as heard] km away from Metulla. The bomb that exploded, as reported this afternoon, was placed in the village of (Fihta), some 12 km north of An-Nabatiyah. That explosion occurred near a position manned by the local civil guard, but no one was hurt.

Rioting Forces Bi'ir Zayt University Campus Closing

TA021751 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The military government has decided to close the old campus of the Bi'ir Zayt University for 3 months because of grave rioting that occurred on 31 January 1984. Arye Gus reports:

Well, the announcement by the Defense Ministry spokesman has just been issued. The military government has decided to close the old Bi'ir Zayt University campus following the riots that occurred there a few days ago, on 31 January. During those events some 400 students gathered on the campus, prevented classes, flew PLO flags, went out into the nearby streets, and set up barriers of rocks. They set tires on fire and attacked with stones the security forces who had come to restore order there. The Bi'ir Zayt University, the announcement says, is a permanent focus for rioting. Its old campus is inside the town and has been used by the students to this day to hold inflammatory gatherings that disturb the peace. The university directorate has been warned more than once that it bears the responsibility for preventing use of the academic campus for the purposes of incitement. Following the events that occurred on 31 January, the old campus has been ordered closed for 3 months. However, the Defense Ministry spokesman's announcement says that the continuation of studies in the university will not be harmed because the university will be able to hold classes in the new campus. The IDF and the civilian administration, the announcement says, will not permit those students who support the PLO to violate public peace.

University President Comments

TA021835 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Bi'ir Zayt University President Gabi Baramki has said that studies and examinations will be seriously harmed because more than half of the students study in the old campus and the offices and library are also there. He told our correspondent Arye Gus that the incident prompting the closure of the building was marginal and for 2 days there were no disturbances. Tomorrow the university's board of trustees will meet to discuss the matter.

Jerusalem Arabic on Egypt's Return to ICO

JN022100 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 2 Feb 84

["Observation" by Yusuf Yaiqub]

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen, Egypt's return to the ICO has caused various reactions in the Arab media. There are those who welcomed it, those who opposed and attacked it, and those who refrained from comment. There are also those who hinted that there was a price that Egypt paid for this return. Those who circulate these hints want on the one hand to hide their shame at what they did to Egypt during the 5 years of boycott, and on the other hand, to pave the way for a price for Egypt to pay for returning to the Arab League.

What is strange is that these hints keep circulating in the Arab media despite the assurances of President Mubarak that Egypt's return to the ICO is not linked to any precondition that infringes upon its sovereignty. It seems that due to the number of these tendentious hints, it became necessary for the Egyptian media to clarify matters.

The commentator of Cairo's Voice of the Arabs radio stressed last night that the logic of prices and preconditions did not apply to this case. Egypt is not returning to the ICO after paying a price, and it is not ready to return to the Arab League by paying any kind of price.

If the boycott took place at the time because of the peace policy adopted by Egypt, then the price should be of the same nature. Has Egypt paid or will it pay a price at the expense of peace? The official Egyptian sources stress the opposite. And to remove all doubt, the Cairo radio commentator clearly and frankly said yesterday: What is between Egypt and Israel is peace and a treaty. All the countries of the world have peace treaties between them. Is peace not the goal and objective of humanity? Egypt has chosen peace for itself because, as the commentator of Voice of the Arabs said, it is the logic of life itself with all its continuity and progress. Egypt had no misgivings about peace, because it has called and is still calling the Arab nation to join in what it has chosen for itself. Thus it is setting an example.

Perhaps those who talk about prices and preconditions would listen well to the Egyptian commentator who has put the facts in the end of his talk in an unambiguous manner, which is, that Egypt will pay no price for its return to the ICO, or for its return to the Arab League.

Finally, we must give a small hint to those who make those wicked tendentious hints— it is that Egypt does not pay a price because only those who make mistakes pay the price. Egypt has proved that its way was right and correct and that all the wrong was with those who boycotted and made enemies with it.

Egyptian Construction in Sinai Raises Concern

TA030659 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by defense correspondent Hirsh Goodman]

[Excerpt] Israel has asked the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai to take particular care to ensure that Egypt does not create more military infrastructure in an area called Zone A thanallowed for under the security agreements that accompanied the Camp David accords.

The Israeli request came up during meetings with the director-general of the force, Raymond Hunt, and its commander, Lt Gen Fredrick Bull-Hansen, both of whom are here on a three-day visit.

Israel is apparently concerned that while the Egyptians have been careful not to station more than the specified one division in Zone A, they have undertaken an extensive building programme, laying a military infrastructure capable of containing a larger force.

ALGERIA

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Visit 2 Feb

LD021953 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1911 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived this afternoon in Algeria and was welcomed by Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and an official of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee.

'Arafat said at the airport that his visit to Algeria fell within the context of a tour of a number of Arab and African countries. He added that such a tour had become necessary especially after the visit of the leader of the Zionist entity to Zaire and Liberia. He said that he found a militant and revolutionary attitude towards the Palestinian revolution held by the African leaders whom he had met.

SUDAN

Armed Men Storm U.S. Oil Company Camp

NC022047 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Feb (MENA) — Three workers with the U.S. Chevron Corporation, which is prospecting for oil in Sudan, were killed and seven others were wounded, three of them seriously, when a group of armed men estimated at 20 stormed the company's camp in the Rabkuna area in the Upper Nile Province in southern Sudan this morning.

In a statement tonight, an official Sudanese spokesman said the armed men had heavy [word indistinct] with them. At an early hour today, they opened fire from outside the camp. Four armed men then stormed the camp and opened fire, which led to the death of three workers — one a Filipino, the second a Briton, and the third a Kenyan.

In a statement tonight, Sudanese Vice President 'Umar at-Tayyib accused Ethiopia of [word indistinct] the incident. At-Tayyib described the incident as a continuation of the plotting against Sudan and [words indistinct]. He said that this plot will not [words indistinct].

It should be recalled that the Chevron Corporation [words indistinct] prospecting for oil in the Upper Nile Province in southern Sudan.

At-Tayyib Comments on Attack

JN021911 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Feb (SUNA) — Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib has described the attack on the homes of workers for the Chevron Corporation, which is prospecting for oil in the country, as a continuation of the conspiracies against Sudan, a link in the plan to stop the economic growth in Sudan, and a plot whose features have been exposed. At-Tayyib said the plot aims at stopping Sudan's progress.

In a statement to SUNA, At-Tayyib said: The treacherous offensive that the aggressors are planning will not achieve its objectives and will only turn against those who stand behind it, plan it, and seek to implement it. At-Tayyib stressed that the large amount of work in the fields of oil prospecting and investment, as well as the Jonglei canal project, will not stop and that the sons of the People's Armed Forces, the security forces, and the people will not allow the enemies to fulfill their dreams in Sudan.

At-Tayyib pointed out that those who carried out the attack infiltrated through Ethiopian borders. He stressed that Sudan, led by the sons of the People's Armed Forces, will spare no effort or blood in defense of their revolution, the unity of their homeland, and the objectives of their revolution.

At-Tayyib met with a Chevron manager today and assured him that the People's Armed Forces will protect the workers in the oil fields in order to guarantee the continuation and completion of the work.

A group of men — estimated at 15-20 persons — armed with heavy weapons, attacked the Chevron camp in Rabkuna region at dawn today, Thursday. They opened fire from outside the camp and four of them stormed the camp and opened fire, killing three Chevron workers. Those killed are: (Reedy Magilino), a Filipino working with the Reading Peets Company; and George (Makfi), an Englishmanworking with Siskon Delta United International. Seven others were wounded in the attack, three of them seriously. Five of the wounded were evacuated to Nairobi for immediate treatment, and the other two to Khartoum.

TUNISIA

Libyan Foreign Minister Visits for Talks

Meets With Essebsi

LD021255 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr Beji Caid Essebsi last night attended a working session with Mr 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the SPLAJ [Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamihiriyah] secretary of foreign liaison, who arrived yesterday evening in Tunis.

The meeting, which was attended by the two ministers, included a discussion on the development of bilateral relations and the situation in the Arab Maghreb, the Arab world and Africa.

Talks Described as 'Frank'

LD021233 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, 2 Feb (KUNA) — An informed source at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry today described the meeting

yesterday evening between Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi and his Libyan counterpart, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi as being totally frank.

This source, who asked to remain anonymous, told KUNA that the talks held between the Tunisian and Libyan officials had lasted 1 and 1/2 hours and had touched on all the pending issues in bilateral relations between the two countries, including the border problem and Libya's request to join the treaty of fraternity and concord — grouping Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania — in addition to the question of Western Sahara, the conflict in Chad, and the Arab-Zionist struggle.

Mzali Receives Libyan Visitor

LD022225 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpt] At the government palace in Qasabah this evening, the prime minister, Mohamed Mzali, and the interior minister received the secretary of the People's Committee of the Libyan people's Foreign Liaison Bureau, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, who stated that he conveyed Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's greetings to the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, and to the prime minister.

He added that he stressed to Mohamed Mzali the Jamahiriyyah's desire to maintain the continuing cooperation between the two countries as agreed upon by the heads of the two states.

Authorities Arrest Islamic Movement Official

LD022215 Kuwait KUNA in English 1618 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, Feb 2 (KUNA) — The Tunisian authorities have arrested the new coordinator of the information committee of the Islamic Movement, Abdul Wahab al-Kafi, it was reported Thursday. According to the independent mass circulation daily, *AL-SABAH*, Kafi was arrested Wednesday afternoon in the city of Al-Qayrawan and was later moved to the capital.

The banned Islamic Movement has recently applied to the authorities for permission to practice open political activity similar to that of the three other legal opposition parties: the Communists, the Social Democrats and the People's Unity Movement. Under the newly-adopted multi-party system, Tunisia is allowing opposition parties to indulge in open political activity within the country's applicable laws.

However, Premier Mohamed Mazali has repeatedly called for the accomodation of Islamic Movements "provided they abandon their fundamentalist policies and doctrines."

Bourguiba Chairs Council of Ministers Session

LD022223 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The great struggler, His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba, presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers held this morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage. After the meeting, Minister of Information Abderrazak Kefi made the following statement:

On the basis of the decision made by the great struggler which cancelled the measures eliminating the subsidy on bread, semolina and pasta, and in implementation of his excellency's directives in this regard, the council looked into the general state budget for 1984. The council heard the planning minister's statement on the results of the special committees' work. The council discussed a host of practical measures aimed at finding new resources that would satisfy the requirements of the general subsidy fund. These measures were in response to the head of state's instructions aimed at taking the situation of the needy into account and putting more and more effort into achieving a regional balance, as well as making a greater effort to stimulate the deprived regions and create work and sources of income for the youth.

This portrays the great struggler's desire to achieve austerity in government expenditures and bring pressure on public expenditures. Thus we can maintain the course of the development march and prepare to accomplish the basic projects listed in the sixth plan. The president has approved these measures and expressed his pleasure that the government had achieved what it was entrusted to achieve in such a short time. The draft budget bill will be submitted to the Council of Deputies.

Out of Tunisia's belief in African solidarity — and working on the basis of this solidarity's needs, which dictate supporting the fraternal African countries when they are in need — President Habib Bourguiba decided to grant aid to Mauritania, Chad, and Niger to help them deal with the drought suffered by the African countries. Within this sphere, his excellency the president permitted the offering of humanitarian aid to the fraternal Guinean Republic to help ease the pain the residents of the area suffered from the recent earthquake.

As affirmation of the great struggler's concern about distant regions and his concern for his sons in all regions, his excellency instructed the government to prepare a draft bill for creating a system of national service that would include all the young cadres and commit them to perform what is dictated by their duty to the national community. This will be done by formulating a principle of spending a specific period of time in the interior regions. This kind of measure would enable the young cadres to contribute to the embodiment of national solidarity and to an improvement in the standard of services in distant regions, and consequently, limit the differences between the regions.

In implementation of the head of state's recommendations, this plan would be executed in the health sector in the first phase.

WESTERN SAHARA

Polisario To Demand Morocco's Exclusion From OAU

AB022223 Paris AFP in English 1645 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Rome, Feb 2 (AFP) — The Polisario will demand Morocco's exclusion from the Organization of African Unity over the Western Sahara issue at the OAU's next summit conference,

Polisario number two Bachir Mustaphas Sehed said here today. The summit is due to be held in Conakry, Guinea, in June.

The question of the seriously divided the [words indistinct] agreements over the admission to the OAU of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic proclaimed by the Polisario. The last OAU summit in Addis Ababa last June called for direct talks for a ceasefire in Polisario's long-running war against Morocco and a referendum on self-determination for the territory before the end of 1983.

Morocco's King Hassan II has refused to negotiate with the Saharan organization, and also made clear that notwithstanding any referendum, the Western Sahara would remain Moroccan. However, Guinea's President Ahmed Sekou Toure, who would chair the Conakry summit, is known to be opposed to the Polisario.

Mr Sehed, who is in Italy at the invitation of the Italian Communist Party, also told a press lunch today that France and the United States were the main suppliers of arms to Morocco. He predicted that victory for the Saharans would come as a result of the Moroccan regime's internal contradictions.

ETHIOPIA

Cheysson Arrives in Addis Ababa for Talks on Chad

AB031130 Paris AFP in English 1103 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Feb 3 (AFP) — French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson arrived here today for talks with officials of the Organization of African Unity [OAU] on efforts to get the Chadian peace process moving again.

He told waiting newsmen at the airport that he had brought a message from President Francois Mitterrand for the OAU authorities.

Mr Cheysson, who came from the Chadian capital via Rwanda, refused to answer questions on his talks in Ndjamena until he had met with those concerned, saying this would be "discourteous."

The French official is expected to meet Ethiopian leader and current OAU Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Bulgarian CP Delegation Arrives in Addis Ababa

EA022317 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1900 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Summary] A Bulgarian delegation led by Georgi Yordanov, candidate member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Cultural Committee, arrived in Addis Ababa this morning on a working visit to Socialist Ethiopia. The delegation was briefed on Ethiopia's historical and cultural heritage by the departmental heads of the Ministry of Culture and Youth Affairs this afternoon at the cultural and sports hall. Girma Yilma, minister of culture and youth affairs and COPWE Central Committee member, delivered a speech on the long-standing relations between the two countries.

TPLF Claims 32 Government Troops Killed

EA021844 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0430 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Tigre: The gallant TPLF [Tigre People's Liberation Front] forces have inflicted heavy casualties on an enemy force advancing to (Dur Anbesa) from Adi Gudom to conscript young people. In this attack, carried out on 21 January, 32 Dergue soldiers were killed or wounded.

KENYA

Egypt's President Mubarak Arrives in Nairobi 2 Feb

NC021556 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpts] This afternoon President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Nairobi from Zaire. He was received at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by President Daniel arap Moi, senior Kenyan officials, members of the diplomatic corps, heads of international organizations who reside in Nairobi, the personnel of the Egyptian Embassy, and the Egyptian community in Nairobi.

The official talks between the Egyptian and Kenyan sides will start today, to be followed by a dinner banquet which the Kenyan president will give in honor of President Mubarak and his accompanying delegation.

Mubarak Speaks at Dinner

NC022025 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Nairobi, 2 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the security and stability of the Middle East is closely linked to the security and stability of Africa. He said that it is necessary that we work together energetically to achieve peace in this turbulent area.

In a speech at a dinner held for him tonight by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi, President Mubarak called for the need to solve problems among the fraternal African states by peaceful means. In his speech, he also praised the close relations between Egypt and Kenya.

The following is the text of President Mubarak's speech:

Dear friend and brother President Daniel arap Moi; dear brothers:

From the bottom of my heart I thank Your Excellency for your kind words and warm reception.

The hospitality which we have seen on our arrival is a living testimony of the ties of friendship and solidarity between our two countries and a symbol of the African unity and the feelings of cordiality and the deep-rooted friendship between our two peoples.

Our two peoples share a common heritage and similar ambitions. They also face the same problems and challenges. Therefore, the unity of purposes and objectives toward Kenya and its people are of particular importance and significance.

The Nile Basin peoples are not only linked by common interests, but also by a common culture and civilization. We stand together in the holy struggle for independence and liberation.

The Kenyan masses waged a heroic battle for freedom and human dignity under the Kenya African National Union led by the great leader, the late Jomo Kenyatta.

The Kenyan liberation movement opened an office in Cairo in 1959 as a base for political and diplomatic struggle. Egypt was among the first states to exchange diplomatic and trade relations with Kenya. This rich record pertains not only to the past, but also to the present and the future.

Several weeks ago Kenya strongly supported the election of Egypt to a seat in the UN Security Council. We greatly thank

you and appreciate this stand which reminds us of the depth of our cooperation.

Our two countries are firmly committed to strengthening the OAU and enabling it to play a great role in our common life. We want to strengthen the OAU's ability to solve differences and end disputes among the African states.

We agree on the determination to establish a new world economic order in which the developing countries will feel more secure and assured. Dialogue must continue between the North and the South in order to confront the big challenges that are facing us.

Hundreds of millions of pounds are being spent on armament at a time when millions of children are dying of hunger and disease.

The transfer of technology and know-how from the industrial states to the developing states is still moving very slowly. The problems of loans are creating very bad situations for most of the developing states. The gap has begun to widen between the prices of raw materials and the prices of manufactured commodities.

We have always called for solutions of these problems by negotiation. However, time is passing quickly, and unless the crisis ends soon there will be dire consequences for mankind. It has become certain beyond any doubt that all states are in the same boat.

This has become a matter of life or death for us all irrespective of the geographical location or the stage of development. If we do not learn how to live in peace and concord, we shall all face a catastrophe. We are determined to exist.

Dear brothers and friends, I was very pleased with the talks which I held with President Moi today. It has become clear in these talks that we have the same fears and interests.

We stand firmly behind our brothers who are waging a heroic struggle against the forces of racial discrimination and repression in the southern part of our continent. We shall not permit the continuation of the injustices that are befalling our brothers. If the international community has not fulfilled its responsibility in this regard, the responsibility remains mainly ours. We must intensify our efforts to end this tragic situation. Namibia must secure its independence in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435. We agree on the need to solve the existing problems between the fraternal African states by peaceful means.

We see no reason that can make us believe that there is any real conflict in interests among states sharing the same fate. The spirit of African unity will guide us in our efforts to find suitable solutions to all the differences to achieve the common interests.

We very much wish to offer our good offices to our brothers who wish to end their differences. We must not let such differences continue and eventually turn into a bitter conflict. Mutual confidence must be restored and misunderstanding must end.

Dear President Moi: You have constantly supported the national rights of the Palestinians, who are struggling for peace and security. The recent developments in the Middle East, whose stability and security is closely linked with that of the African states, makes it necessary for us to work together vigorously for the achievement of peace in that area.

In order for peace to be permanent, it must be comprehensive and based on justice and the rule of law. The use of force must not be rewarded. Israel must withdraw from Lebanon, stop all the settlement activity in the occupied territories, and refrain from taking any measures aimed at effecting a change in the demographic or legal status of these territories. Instead of carrying out further acts of violence and repression, Israel must begin a process to heal the wounds and to establish confidence with the Palestinians, since this represents the real key to the establishment of permanent peace and security. No one can deny their inalienable right to self-determination in the age of freedom and liberation.

Dear friends, we are closely following the progress which Kenya is making under the wise leadership of President Moi. We realize the scope of the problems which you are facing, and there is no doubt that you will overcome them with a spirit of solidarity and national unity. We look to the enormous achievements made by the creative Kenyan people in all fields. As a token of the rapprochement and friendship that exists between us, I extend an invitation to President Moi to visit Egypt at the earliest possible time.

Permit me to call on you to stand up to salute our dear friend President Moi, all our friends who are present here tonight, the Kenyan people, and the eternal friendship between our two peoples.

TANZANIA

Nyerere Addresses Assembly on Zanzibar, Jumbe

EA021600 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Speech by President Julius Nyerere to members of National Assembly at the National Assembly Hall in Dodoma — live]

[Excerpts] Ndugu Speaker, Ndugu Chairman of this [word indistinct] Committee and ndugu members of this party committee. As you heard, the Central Committee of the National Executive Committee met in Chamwino beginning on 16 January. As a rule, that session would have been devoted to receiving recommendations for changing the party's constitution, emanating from the government's directives, directives issued by the National Executive Committee. As a rule it would have been followed by another session of the National Executive Committee, which, would have continued to discuss the recommendations. But the Central Committee session was aware that as a result of these party recommendations, issued by the National Executive Committee, for changing our constitution — the union's Constitution, the Constitution of the Zanzibar Government — and for consolidating the union, there was great confusion, and there were many unsubstantiated rumors.

People were saying strange things. We considered that in such circumstances, to pretend to begin discussion on recommendations for constitutional changes would not be realistic. It would be better for you to first discuss the confusion that occurred and after looking at your conclusions, and particularly after clearing the air, then really begin the procedure of discussing the recommendations to change the Constitution, as they would be seen as resulting from the ideas and views of citizens and the views of the National Executive Committee.

Therefore we agreed that we in the Central Committee would discuss the situation. We also agreed to call the National Executive Committee to hold a special session and to halt discussion on recommendations to change the Constitution so we could discuss this confusion and establish its source and causes.

I would like now — my intention is — to explain this confusion. I will endeavor to explain in very clear, very sincere terms so that, if possible, the situation is understood and this confusion ends. However, to begin with, I beg to take this opportunity to mention some matters which emerged from the debates of the Central Committee, because we sat for 3 days and these matters emerged. These matters, which are part of the causes of the bad situation of political confusion in the country, are:

1. There are people who are telling Zanzibar countrymen that the discussions on amendments to the Constitution are an intrigue of the mainland to swallow up Zanzibar. Many Zanzibar countrymen have started believing this rumor. Likewise, in the mainland, there are countrymen who believe that because of this fear of being swallowed up, Zanzibar is preparing itself to break up the union. This is the first thing.

2. There are views that the Revolutionary Government [of Zanzibar] opposes the policies and powers of the party, that is to say "supremacy" [rendered in English] of the party on matters that concern Zanzibar — a matter that is contrary to the Constitution of Chama Cha Mapinduzi and also contradicts the principles enshrined in the Constitution of the United Government and the Constitution of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

3. Statements have been made in public by people close to the leadership of the revolutionary government of Zanzibar opposing the union, making a mockery of the principles of the unity of our nation, and also slandering our policy of socialism and self-reliance. What is worse is that these treasonous statements were not retracted and those involved were not censured.

4. A habit of evil people has emerged, not only here but even in foreign countries, in which they make remarks opposing the union and utter other slanders to the extent that our country's honor and reputation have been smeared. Even the friends of Tanzania have been concerned about the fate of our unity and the survival of our nation.

5. It is clear that such a situation of confusion can jeopardize the security of our country. In fact, during the approach of the 20th anniversary of the Zanzibar revolution, reports were received that the security of Zanzibar was in danger as a result of the machinations of the enemies of the Revolutionary Government and the United Government. Although these machinations have been curbed, nevertheless the enemy can start afresh at a time when a situation of political confusion is continuing in tandem with the bad economic situation. Now this is the confusion that was being spread.

We sat in the National Executive Committee, as I said, from 24 to 30 January. We discussed these matters at great length, with extreme frankness and truthfulness, with sincerity, with brotherhood and with absolute mutual respect. We were guided by patriotism for our country.

Our party's proposals have been published. They are not secret. They were published a long time ago, openly, in the Kiswahili language, and I think also in English. But they have been published in Kiswahili: originally in Kiswahili and later translated into English. They are open, and citizens have been requested to read them, discuss them and see what is important and what is not important, and come out with any new ideas they may have. There is nothing in these proposals — not in any one place — that states, either openly or in a tricky manner, that the proposals have any other intentions except those that were mentioned by the party in the proposals.

In fact there are two types of proposals. The first type concerns constitutional amendments. It has been explained and I will try later to explain its various parts. Amending the necessary issues (?before) any constitutional amendments. The other is to strengthen the union. Now, the section on strengthening the union, which you would have expected to contain proposals on swallowing the Government of Zanzibar, on abolishing the Government of Zanzibar and abolishing its powers, thus enabling the Tanzanian mainland to swallow Tanzania: If there is such a ploy, it would be contained in the section on proposals to strengthen the union. Now, what does that section state? To strengthen the union, I will read them — I will read the most important ones. Strengthening the union. Although the issue of strengthening the union was not mentioned in the 1981 party guidelines, the NEC discussed it at length and decided that there was a need also to make its own proposals on that important issue of strengthening the union.

The first thing which became evident is that the present Constitution does not explain explicitly the aim of the agreement reached in 1964 during the formation of our union. There are guidelines which the Constitution has set [words indistinct]. The aim was that in our union there would be two governments — there would be two governments — that is, the Government of Zanzibar, with powers over the internal affairs of Zanzibar, except those concerning of the union, and the Government of the Union Republic with full powers over all matters concerning the union, including all internal affairs of Tanzanian mainland. One government, a government that has full powers in Zanzibar over all matters which do not concern the union, and another union government which would be for the whole of Tanzania, and in the whole of Tanzania there are matters which we have agreed are matters concerning the union. But the Tanzanian mainland, the same government would have full powers over those matters which, as in the case of Zanzibar, do not concern the union. So that is what it states.

When you merge two countries and then have on government, it is clear one of the two might seem to have swallowed the other. And the country that might be seen to have swallowed the other is not Zanzibar that would have been seen to have swallowed Tanganyika, but Tanganyika might be seen to have swallowed Zanzibar. Therefore you must have a system that could enable Zanzibar to have, as the English say, an identity [word in English] so that it may be clearly seen that Zanzibar and its government exist. You must do this. If you do not do this, it would be seen as if the system allows a large country to swallow a small one.

For the last 20 years the situation has been like this — we have two governments and not one of the proposals says that this situation should change — it is not there at all. Read the proposals and see if there is any place where it is says there should be change, that the Zanizibar Government should be wiped out and its authority abolished.

Those views that the Zanzibar Government should go: From where do they come? They are the views of liars; I will explain the reasons behind their lies later. They are big liars. [applause]

At present my final task, and that of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] is to complete our country's revolution. [applause] This is the task we are expected to accomplish; we cannot allow foolish people, for silly reasons, to stop us from doing this. We shall do this. I promise to do this, that we shall do it. [applause] [passage indistinct]

Unfounded allegations are made against the Party by these little people whose motive is to come up with riduculous ideas. I will explain — my Zanzibar friends know this. By embarrassing our Party and in trying to create confusion, these people can create a dangerous situation.

Recently, these people who talk nonsense, who lie, last year, I think last year, we received reports early last year, that there was a big plan in Pemba — it was the year before last — the people of Pemba wanted to create chaos in the government. So we thought, before doing anything, let us give the Party an opportunity, since we have one party, to look into these matters to see whether they are true or not. So we sent a Party delegation. There were Zanzibaris and mainland Tanzanians. They went to Pemba and they did a very good job. They found the reports had no truth. So, the Party investigated throughout Zanzibar as well as Pemba and found there was no truth in any of the allegations. Later it was said: You see, the Party is meddling with government affairs, it despises the Zanzibaris and Pembans, and it thinks the government here does nothing. It was alleged that the Party had interfered. It did interfere. It investigated to see whether or not matters pertaining to arrests were true. The people making allegations like confusion; they rejoice in it.

Recently, I was in Butiama [Nyerere's home village]. A delegation came: Mwalimu, we have received reports, from the government, from the Zanzibar Government, saying there is a plan to cause chaos, maybe to invade Zanzibar. From where? From outside. There is a plan to invade the Zanzibar Government? Yes. There is the evidence?. So mwalimu, it is better to send and reinforce troops in Zanzibar. But is there any evidence, good evidence?

Another delegation came: Mwalimu, there is a definite possibility we could be invaded during the period during the date of the anniversary of the revolution. So, my colleagues, who could it be? (?They could not understand). On one occasion, In informed the (?principal secretary): Prepare troops. Later I phoned him: No, mister, do not, I do not want that. I declined.

Then a third delegation came while I was still in Butiama. Mwalimu, listen, people have told us.

So, three times this happened. I thought hard: Which country would invade us? It does not make sense to me. But then ultimately: Mwalimu, must it be a country? Nowadays invasions are not necessarily made by another country. Any such country could look only for mercenaries. [laughter] Mercenaries (?want) only money. If one has money he recruits mercenaries anywhere. There are many as long as they are well paid. So, mwalimu, think not only of a country, and so forth, and assume that that is enough. That would be pointless. People like chaos, they like causing confusion, for in doing so, they are doing what pleases them. They are capable of using mercenaries. [passage indistinct] Then the delegations would say: Mwalimu we told you so; this is the result of your inertia.

So I agreed. The youths [Nyerere often refers to soldiers as youths] of Zanzibar who are here know. I agreed. I sent troops and they are still there. But you also know, at the same time, these liars said: Did we not tell you? We told you they would come to invade the country and take it over. Now they have come. I informed the vice [presumably Vice President Jumbe]. I told him my suspicions and I informed him why I was suspicious.

Now they have appeared again. They can fabricate other lies and can utter mysterious things. The Zanzibaris know this. We have youths there, so the liars spread their lies saying: They have come to wipe out the Zanzibar Government. Big lies.

Now, as I explained to you from the beginning, having three governments is not a sin. Therefore, if people want to hatch an idea of forming three governments, it is not a sin. It is a matter that can still be discussed. The possibility of discussing the idea of three governments is there. It can be brought up for discussion. True, my views are the same as the ones I held in the past. My views have not changed — by adding, and having three, you would be inviting conflict. As far as I am concerned, if it is brought up — and bringing it up is not a sin — it will be discussed. But I will continue to say the same thing: Why? How will it benefit us?

To the mind of a normal human being, if there was need for three governments, the request would have come from the Tanzanian mainland. [applause] It would have been Tanzanian mainlanders saying: Our collegues in Zanzibar, why do they have their own government? Why don't we also have our own government of the Tanzanian mainland, and the same for the Tanzanian isles?

I say that if there are people who want to bring it about, then let them. I will oppose it. [applause] It would increase expenses unnecessarily. You would have (?an agriculture minister for the isles), the Tanzanian mainlanders would also want an agriculture minister, and then you would have an agriculture minister for the

union. You will have an Agriculture Ministry in Zanzibar, an Agriculture Ministry in the Tanzanian mainland and a union Ministry of Agriculture.

Now, all of you who are listening, including the people from Zanzibar present here, and those listening out there, pick up the speech made by the chief minister [words indistinct]. In that speech I heard for the first time a leader of our country saying: There are three governments in Tanzania. And this was raised again during our talks in the Central Committee and the National Executive Committee.

We have a Constitution. If people want changes, that is all right. If they do not want, then we will continue with the same Constitution. A procedure for amending our Constitution has been laid down. It is very convenient. In accordance with our constitutional amendment procedure, if there is a matter that Tanzania mainland is displeased with, then the Tanzanian islands cannot approve it. According to our Constitution, if there is something that the people of Tanzania isles do not like, Tanzania mainland cannot approve it. Jumbe travelled a lot on the Tanzanian mainland — he travelled more on the mainland than the late Karume. The late Karume did not travel a lot. This one travelled a lot on the Tanzanian mainland.

On the isles, various groups of people did not like him for various reasons. Some of the groups have been there for a long time. Some are (?based outside), other are in Zanzibar: They do not like him. I (?have not heard of some of them), only their various reasons. There are various groups, each with its own reasons for hating him. They started tarnishing his image.

One said he was a puppet of the union. It reached a point [words indistinct] That he had already built at (Mji Mwema). So let him live there. That is what one of the groups said. He hurt some of them when he introduced the 1979-81 amendments. [indistinct passage] So it reached a point where my brother was discussed a lot, including ridicule for his love for the union. It became a scandal, both on the mainland and on the isles.

When we proposed to him in 1982 to continue as the vice-chairman — they know, delegates of the National Executive Committee know, that what I am saying I have said in front of them. [sentence as heard] When we decided to merge our parties he was there. I have said that he and his fellow leaders, Thabit Kombo and the others, agreed.

There were people in Zanzibar who disagreed. Some of them said stupid things, but he stood firm. He travelled alone from branch to branch, explaining: He explained to the Afro Shirazi Party branches; he explained to individuals; he has worked hard; and they know that he worked hard to strengthen the union. [applause]

He is the person who started the task of liberating us from what we were. The Zanzibar of today, even before the introduction of the changes that continue to be opposed by disgruntled people, is different from the Zanzibar of the past. And my brothers in Zanzibar know, my Zanzibari brothers who love Aboud and those who hate him, know that in the past, when they hated Karume, they did not speak out. Today, those who hate Aboud can speak out. [applause] They know this. He is the one who initiated these developments which we are saying should be finalized. They know this.

And threats: There are still threats in Zanzibar. I will speak out: Even after our recent meeting here, the young men were called there for questioning. So, after the meeting, the House of Representatives meeting I told you about, people were called. They were asked: Why are you deviating from our stand? Don't you understand our position?

Let me continue. Despite the (?action), the Zanzibar of today is totally different from the Zanzibar from where we came. Different. People say today, not only in the National Executive Committee, even you Zanzibari MP's present here also say it these days: The task has been accomplished. They have accomplished it.

Countries are led by human beings, not by angels or holy (?spirits). There is no leader in the world without shortcomings; all of us make mistakes. At present you just murmur about my mistakes, but when I leave you will say: Oh! The things this man has done! We all make mistakes. Every human being makes mistakes [words indistinct]. For this reason, we in the National Executive Committee, after lengthy discussions, said that our party must continue to be (?strengthened) [applause] and our country, including our two governments, must survive. [applause]

You will ask me: If that is so, why did you accept his resignation? We agreed, because we discussed what I explained to you. And it has taken me a lot of time. I have taken 2 hours here: My final speech at the National Executive Committee meeting, took 3 hours. After all the discussions I have told you about, Ndugu Aboud sincerely asked for permission to resign from all his positions of leadership, and we agreed.

I said that you would ask me: Why did you agree? We agreed for three reasons. First, these things [as heard] happened under his leadership. I said three reasons. These things were done and he was the leader. Second, he was confused by people, and my Zanzibari brothers know this. He was confused. Things were made to look confusing to him. It gets to the point when, even if you are a leader, even the good things you do are denigrated. Things were stirred up for him, especially concerning his being a puppet of the union. Then these same people started tarnishing the image of the union. It confused him. [passage indistinct] The third reason why we accepted his resignation: Because of the confusion, it was obvious that he would not have managed — he would not have managed — to supervise the final changes that we want instituted in Zanzibar. He cannot manage now. It is obvious. After such confusion and trouble, and on top of that, being ridiculed and threatened — in such a situation and he cannot now firmly supervise the changes we want. He cannot.

After realizing this and recalling how he had helped us — those of you who were not present cannot understand how much he helped us — he requested, sincerely, to resign. To resign. We accepted because of these reasons.

We passed [word indistinct] that the party continue to respect him as our leader, one who will go down in history and who will help to strengthen our nation. [applause] We requested governments, both governments, to accord him the same respect.

Mwinyi Resigns Post as Zanzibar Chief Minister

EA021854 Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili 1800 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The interim chairman of the Revolutionary Council and President of Zanzibar, Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi, today, Thursday, 2 February 1984, received a request from the chief minister, Ndugu Ramadhani Haji Faki, to resign his membership on the Revolutionary Council and his post of chief minister of Zanzibar.

The interim chairman of the Revolutionary Council and President of Zanzibar, Ndugu Ali Hassan Mwinyi, accepted the request.

UGANDA

Nairobi TV Interviews President Obote

EA021842 Nairobi Television Service in English 1745 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Video interview with President Milton Obote by *KENYA TIMES* correspondent Abel Ndumbu in studio, date not given — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Abel Ndumbu] Now the job of reconstructing Uganda is again in the hands of Dr Milton Obote.

[Obote] There were two sets of problems which had to be surmounted. First there were the global problems in respect to the economies of the world, whereby Third World countries were suffering in various degrees. The other set of problems was about Uganda's internal conditions. From 1971 to the time when my government came to office in December 1980, the Ugandan economy had been declining at a very rapid rate. It is not generally known outside Uganda that during all that period there never occured in Uganda a single construction work. No house was constructed in Uganda. The buildings which were being constructed at the end of 1970 have remained uncompleted up to date.

The first thing that needed to be done was to articulate and work out a program: Put first things first. A different, needed, leadership. One can say quite correctly that from 1971 up to the time of the general elections in 1980 Uganda had lost political leadership. There wasn't political leadership with vision, a vision that was concerned with trying to salvage whatever was possible to be salvaged despite the — or in spite of the — global recession.

[Ndumbu] After the liberation of Uganda, the leadership of the country first went to Professor Yusuf Lule, former vice chancellor of Makerere University. But the political climate was heavily riven with dissention. The first post-Amin government of Lule lasted only 68 days. Yusuf Lule was succeeded by a lawyer, Godfrey Binaisa, who in turn was succeeded by the military commission under the Ugandan National Liberation Front [UNLF]. The general elections organized by the military commission in December 1980 gave Obote victory; his first task was to revive the economy.

[Obote] But that administration, the first UNLF administration under Professor Yusuf Lule, could not work together. It was overburdened by sectionalism and that is why the administration lasted only 68 days. The next administration was that of Godfrey Binaisa. Again this one was overburdened by sectionalism and also lacked that quiet (?creed) of political leadership. It also collapsed. Now the next administration was a holding administration, the military commission. It was not expected to pronounce on (?bold) economic policies. It was a coalition, caretaker, administration responsible for one overall objective: to maintain the security and to organize the general elections. And that's what they did.

[Ndumbu] As president of Uganda, you had had two (?stands) in 1962 and 1980. Which of these two stands would you then consider to be more difficult than the other?

[Obote] And so the first program was to increase the producer prices, give the farmers the necessary incentive to enable them to produce so that the country can sell more commodities in the world market. We had also to organize the acquisition, the importation of agricultural inputs and implements. This also did come. We had further to do away with the economy of allocations. During the military regime and soon after liberation, committees were set all over Uganda, beginning with one national committee at the center to distribute what was called essential commodities. So everything became essential commodity — soap, sugar, salt, hoes, textiles — anything at all became essential commodity. This created a situation whereby there was a lot of hoarding in the economy and prices were rising, and it was impossible for the simple person to find these so called essential commodities.

The rich people who somehow managed to get a lot of money during the military regime and soon after liberation were able to go the Bank of Uganda, pay 8 shillings and receive $1 to buy soap, a bar of soap. Now I don't know what was the price of a bar of soap in Nairobi at that time, but they would come here even with only one bar of soap and sell it at 400 shillings. You can look at this from a different point of view, and that was that there was price control in Uganda. Take, for instance, beer. The government price control was 25 shillings a bottle. It was easy for the well-to-do and for the powerful to get this bottle of beer at 25 shillings. But in the rural areas, the workers in urban areas were only able occasionally to get that same bottle of beer at around 400 shillings. So we also abolish that bank. We said no there is going to be no price control.

We are now in January 1984, we have just completed December 1983. And the Uganda foreign exchange earnings for the month of December 1983 was $45 million. Now in 1981 we earned $8 million. Now this if a very encouraging improvement. In 1981 or first part of 1981 we were short of food, and today we have surplus food. In 1981 shops in Kampala, the markets and elsewhere and the markets all over Uganda were dry of commodities.

Today the commodities are there. The shops are full of various items.

[Ndumbu] Now one can in actual fact say that you had as president two starts. In 1962 and 1980 or 1981, and in both cases you were starting from scratch. Which of the two starts do you see as more difficult?

[Obote] 1962 was not a difficult start. It was a start in the way that an independent state was born. But we inherited an economy, albeit colonial, but still it was a functioning economy, it was not a collapsed economy. We inherited transport systems, we inherited other structures as well as relations with Kenya and Tanzania in respect to East African common services. The other associations with Kenya and Tanzania in terms of the East African community had all collapsed [as heard]. I go back to 1970, end of 1970, the Uganda police force [words indistinct] in 1979 the Uganda police force was reduced to 3,000 officers and men. We have during the past 3 years recruited and trained a new police force and this you can now see virtually everywhere in Uganda.

The Uganda Army disintegrated during the war of liberation and in 1979 and 1980; the only security force in Uganda was the Tanzanian Armed Forces. The Tanzanian Army withdrew in the middle of 1981, but before that stage, during 1979, all kinds of people joined the new Uganda Army. All kinds of thugs acquired guns. The Uganda Army, which disintegrated during the war of liberation, did not all disappear. Most of them spread out in rural Uganda and into towns with guns. Our first priority was to persuade people to return the guns to the government. So we have, I would say, done tremendously well in the field of security; otherwise the production we are talking about would not have been achieved if there was a lot of insecurity in Uganda.

[Ndumbu] Speaking as an observer of the news that one gets filtering out of Uganda, one hears of reports of deaths and other atrocities and the reports either say that the guerrillas opposed to your government or it is your own troops going on rampage. [sentence as heard] In the case of the recent helicopter crash, for instance, in which the Major General Oyite Ojok died, the National Resistance Army claimed responsibility. Now, to what extent are these reports authentic and true?

[Obote] Well, I don't think I am called upon really to authenticate reports of that kind. I am sure that intelligent readers of certain bulletins would know that these are propaganda and these are absolute lies. You mark their words claiming responsibility when a bus carrying innocent people, pregnant mothers, mothers with their young babies traveling on the road peacefully move from one area to another, is shot at and blown up, when an ambulance carrying patients with medical workers, doctors, and nurses is shot at and somebody issues a statement to say we claim responsibility.

Listen to that wording claiming responsibility for shooting at a bus killing and maiming young people, pregnant women, claiming responsibility for shooting at an ambulance, killing patients and medical workers, shooting at a vehicle carrying relief food to displaced persons — claiming responsibility. Now I can't authenticate that type of (?thing). I think these are deranged persons who can claim responsibility for the death of innocent people.

[Ndumbu] If there has been any consistency in the accusations of the guerrilla groups opposed to Obote it has been that the December, 1980, elections were rigged and that the new government has not helped to return democracy to the country.

[Obote] There are two things in Africa, mostly in Africa, whether you have a one-party state or a multiparty state. After every election you will find some candidates saying that elections were rigged. You will find some candidates saying elections were rigged, and in the case of Uganda nobody should deceive the world that these persons chose violence because of elections of December, 1980.

There is a group of mostly Amin's former soldiers. These people were ruling Uganda from 1971 until they were defeated in the liberation war in 1979, and they say they want to restore democracy now in Uganda. When they were there as rulers there was no democracy. How can they now turn round and [words indistinct] say that elections were rigged? But they did not organize elections. Then you come to supporters of Yusuf Lule, supporters of people like Andrew Kayiira. These people started fighting — took the course of violence in June 1979. And they did not participate in the elections.

There were also other groups that joined them in early 1980. So all these groups except one began their activities long before the elections. The one that joined them after elections really was also prepared not to have elections. Their cause for choosing violence is not that elections were rigged but is that elections were held at all because their leader, Yoweri Museveni — we know this is a fact — campaigned vigorously among some African leaders to persuade the military regime in Uganda that the elections should be postponed indefinitely in order to allow them to consolidate what he called a revolution. So there is not a single group of these dissidents who have chosen violence as a means to power who can clearly state to the people of Uganda that they did so because elections were rigged. They say so outside Uganda, and if elections were rigged these people would have had tremendous support in Uganda. The reason why they have had no tremendous support in Uganda is because elections were not rigged.

[Ndumbu] The considerable recovery that Uganda has been able to achieve so far, however, has been the result of two major factors — one, of course, is the determination of the Government of Uganda to revive the economy, and the other is the goodwill of the international donors, particularly the World Bank. It is not known, however, to what extent the policies pursued were dictated by the international donors.

[Obote] There is an English saying that you can take a horse to the stream but you cannot force it to drink. In this case I don't know which is the horse: Is it Uganda, or the international donors? But either way, if the donor or Uganda were not willing to a particular thing, nothing would have happened. What I am trying to explain is that it was not either the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund, or for that matter the European Economic Community or other donor countries, that directed Uganda to do particular things. What happened was the other

way round. There seems to be some misunderstanding about Uganda's relations with the IMF and to some extent with the World Bank. These are banks. Even the IMF is a bank. Whether in Nairobi or Kampala, you just can't talk into a bank and say I am so and so, I want to borrow money, and expect the bank to give you that money. No, banks are difficult and you have got to try and meet their conditions.

Now in the case of the IMF and the World Bank, it so happens that we are members of these banks. I am a governor of the World Bank, I am minister of finance here in Uganda, I am also a governor of the IMF; so we are members of this bank and we have agreed to conditions of their lendings. When we agreed to conditions of their lends this was many years ago, but now when we are in difficulty we go to them and they say these are the conditions, and they are very hard conditions. They are very very hard conditions. Now instead of Uganda in 1981 saying — well, conditions are too hard, we would wait until you modified them — we went ahead and boldly said — very well, we will try it as a challenge.

[Ndumbu] Now as we start this year 1984, what is your vision of the kinds of political and socioeconomic policies that the countries in our region, in particular, we could say Uganda and Kenya, can pursue for the benefit of the people?

[Obote] We need Kenya in order to import our requirements. Kenya has a service that it has to render, and if I were to say anything here I would say since you have this service, make it efficient, and secondly, do not overprice it, because if you upprice it you make it difficult for your customers. On the other hand Kenya also is, to some extent, requires Uganda's services. We export a certain amount of electricity to Kenya, Kenya needs the Uganda market, indeed I think in Africa or elsewhere since we are the biggest market for Kenya products. Kenya needs that market. Kenya also needs Ugandan route to Rwanda, to Zaire, to Burundi and to Sudan. So with political goodwill we can expand on this existing platform of cooperation. And I look forward to 1984, [it] should give the leaders of Kenya and Uganda the necessary vision to create more platforms of cooperation, particularly in the political and economic fields. These are vitally important for the people of Kenya and the people of Uganda. This cooperation should not just stop at the level of leaders, it must permeate right up to the people of the two countries or within our region, Tanzania for that matter. Thus, the benefit out of it politically and economically [is] that that cooperation will be meaningful.

Now the lessons of the community, the collapse of the community is in those words: It collapsed because there was no political leadership. There was a military regime in Uganda, an elected government in Kenya, an elected government in Tanzania. It was not possible for the East African political leadership to emerge. It was, so to speak, a cripple which used to have three stands, but one stand was removed in 1971, so it collapsed.

[Ndumbu] Development in the future will also largely depend on the degree of reconciliation achieved by the peoples of Uganda. In this respect, President Obote has made appeals to Ugandans to return home to help in the reconstruction of the country. How much support have you received so far?

[Obote] There is no reason whatsoever why some of these Ugandans should chose to be in exile. You mentioned the names so far — Lule and Binaisa. I have read again and again their statements as to how they fell. Each one of them, somehow, finds a way of claiming that they fell because of me. That they fell because President Nyerere wanted me to be the president and therefore worked to remove them. This is a childish statement. I regret to use that word in relation to people — men like Lule and Binaisa. But still it [word indistinct] a childish statement.

Here we were, in exile. Lule was in exile and he had no cause to be in exile during Amin's time, his family was [word indistinct] a good business here under Amin. Binaisa was in exile, I was in exile. How did Lule become the president of Uganda in 1979? It was not because he had a liberation army. It was not because he had tremendous support in Uganda. He became leader because of Tanzania. He was put there by the gang of four. Lule was also removed by the gang of four but, apparently, it suits them to say President Nyerere removed them in order to pave the way for his friend Milton Obote. I wish it was so, because if it was so I would have been the president on the fall of Kampala in April 1979 and Uganda would not have gone to this mess. Never.

[Ndumbu] But you wouldn't deny that you and President Nyerere are good friends?

[Obote] Oh, We're good friends. We're very good friends. But that doesn't prove that we colluded or did something to remove Lule. And I did disagree with President Nyerere on the issue of Lule coming here as a leader. This is a man who never expressed any interest in Ugandan politics.

Sometime in the early sixties he wanted to be the Katikiro and he got three votes. Three votes: and he has never been interested in politics. And the Moshi conference, he was forming his government, he didn't know many people. He did just know people. So I don't (? understand). You say that they will not come. I'm not begging people who are in exile to come home. I'm expressing a concern as a leader. They may not like me, and I know that they don't like me, but i'm their leader. I'm running the government of their country and I would be remiss in my responsibility not to tell them to come home. I don't want them tomorrow to start in the reverse order, to say we were never asked to come home.

But I reject and reject totally what they normally say, that there should be a roundtable conference between the government and all the dissident groups. I reject that proposition. Why? Once you have an election on a multiparty basis and some people decide to go to the bush with guns and then, later, you say let us talk and you talk, you may succeed in that talk and you form a new administration. What are you going to do? Are you going to hold another election? Because if you hold another election, somebody is bound to lose. Not everyone will be elected, and those who lose will have learnt a lesson that the only way by which they would go into government would be to go to the bush, then call for a conference. And since you've already agreed to a previous conference. So you go on and on, on and on. The elections become meaningless. I've promised these people that if they come, they will be safe, like anyone of us. You can't stop criminals attacking anyone of us.

[Ndumbu] To what extent will the overtures made that expropriated businesses would be returned to the owners? How much progress can be made in this difficult area?

[Obote] We are making certain pronouncements this month: I hope January 1984. But there should be no misunderstanding here. The expropriated properties act is one way which my party did promise in the election manifesto of resolving the issue, or rather the ownership of the properties whose owners were expelled in 1972 and 1973. Now the act is not exlusively for returning the properties to the owners who were expelled in 1972 and 1973. But should such owners express a desire to come and repossess the property, that claim will be considered carefully, objectively and fairly by the government.

[Ndumbu] At the personal level, Mr President, you spent 9 years in Dar es Salaam. You had been used to a pretty busy life, very active, and one wonders what was going through your mind as you sat in Dar es Salaam. Did you feel spiritually beaten? What did you spend your 9 years doing?

[Obote] All sorts of things, mostly reading and writing. But I was never spiritually down. Never. My opponents deceived themselves over those 9 years with them with a belief that I was very sick and things of that kind. And when I decided to emerge, they were all surprised.

[Ndumbu] Specifically, what is your reaction or position on the latest coup in Nigeria?

[Obote] There is nothing I can do. I just recognize it as a fact.

[Ndumbu] How is your government handling the refugee situation? I think you have two sets of problems on refugees. You have the Ugandans out and then you've also got the situation in the south. How is the government handling this?

[Obote] Uganda has always been since independence a good host to refugees, very good host to refugees. We have had for the past 20 years or so large number of Rwandese refugees. We also used to have refugees from Zaire, and I think some are still here, and refugees from Sudan. Many went back. The policy will not change. The policy will not change because people do not become refugees because they like being refugees. People become refugees because they are forced to be refugees. So it our policy to give the refugees mental and physical comfort when they are here in Uganda. We expect them to obey Uganda laws. And we have had some difficulties with some the Rwandese refugees in this respect. Regarding our own people who are refugee as opposed to exiles, many are returning, particularly from Zaire, and we are quickly resettling them. We have not made much progress with those who sought refuge in southern Sudan, but we are in touch with the Government of Sudan.

[Ndumbu] Your Excellency, I would like to thank you very much for this conversation and we certainly wish Uganda a good recovery.

UPC Chairman for Mpigi Constituency Murdered

AB020955 Paris AFP in English 0942 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Kampala, Feb 2 (AFP) — The chairman of the ruling Uganda People's Congress [UPC] for Mpigi central constituency west of Kampala, Apolinali Tebiiyale, was killed at his home Sunday by eight unidentified armed men, the Catholic vernacular daily *MUNNO* reported here today. He was the third branch chairman for the area to be murdered within a year.

CHAD

Cheysson Concludes Talks With Habre

Talks to Press

AB021352 Paris AFP in French 1321 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 2 Feb (AFP) — French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson said in Ndjemena today that "the day that the Libyan forces withdraw from Chad, we (the French forces) will not wait even for another day to withdraw." The conditions for such a withdrawal "have not yet been set," stated the French minister, adding that the present situation in Chad is "very dangerous and cannot go on any longer." Claude Cheysson made this statement to the press shortly after his audience that lasted over 2 hours with Chadian President Hissein Habre.

"We had very detailed and thorough discussions with President Habre" and "both parties paid close attention," the French minister of external relations told the press. Claude Cheysson added that one of the aims of his visit to Ndjamena is to report to President Mitterrand "President Hissein Habre's opinion and ideas on possible initiatives" for a solution to the present crisis. "There should be consultations between the Chadians under conditions that respect the sovereignty of Chad and therefore the head of state."

"Chad has a head of state; this is an irreducible fact which no African (?head) of state can contest," the French minister stated.

Mr Cheysson, who disclosed that he had delivered a message from President Mitterrand to Mr Habre without revealing the contents, added that he was going to Tripoli to discuss various issues, particularly to ensure that "the military situation does not become worse."

Finally, the head of French diplomacy stressed that his visit to Ndjamena and Tripoli "was decided before the bloody incident at Ziguey and Toro Doum."

Departs for Addis Ababa

AB021936 Paris AFP in English 1851 GMT 2 Feb 84

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Ndjamena, Feb 2 (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson left here today for Addis Ababa, headquarters of the Organization of African Unity, after a meeting with Chadian President Hissein Habre.

He said that in "direct, indepth and very searching" talks he had gained a better knowledge of Mr Habre's ideas on possible political initiatives towards resolving a "very dangerous" situation which "cannot last."

Mr Cheysson made it clear that Paris considered the situation in Chad was now extremely threatening. The military situation was no longer "frozen," he told journalists in a reference to a recent upsurge of the fighting between Mr Habre's forces and those of his ousted predecessor Goukouni Oueddei, who holds northern Chad with Libyan backing.

Last week a French Jaguar bomber was shot down attacking a column from the north which had crossed the French-manned Red Line separating the two sides, and further fighting between Mr Habre's troops and their opponents has also been reported from eastern Chad.

Mr Cheysson, who is also to visit Tripoli, said the French Government still felt the best way to resolve the military, diplomatic and political crisis was direct contacts between the Chadian factions.

He added that such talks must take place under conditions "which respect the sovereignty of Chad and its head of state, who is recognised as such by Africa and the international community."

It was an unavoidable fact that no African state could contest, that Chad has a head of state, Mr Cheysson said in a reference to Mr Habre, whose position is recognised by a majority of the OAU but not by Libya and a number of other individual states.

Mr Cheysson said that the further stages of his tour were no less important than his visit to Ndjamena. He wanted to see how the possibilities of a further meeting of Chadians could be defined, and in Tripoli he wanted to discuss various problems, in particular to avoid a worsening of the military situation.

The last talks between the Chadian factions, organised by the OAU last month, broke down in a row over protocol, with Habre's side demanding to be treated as the official government. Mr Habre himself refused to attend after he considered Mr Goukouni had been treated as a head of state by OAU officials. On the French military presence in Chad, Mr Cheysson said Paris wanted to withdraw its forces as soon as possible. But Libya would have to go first, he added.

Libya denies having any of its own troops in Chad.

While Mr Cheysson insisted that his visits to Ndjamena and Tripoli had been arranged before the latest incidents, observers said they were particularly important after the failure of last month's conference in Addis Ababa.

But the French minister's aides said his task would not be easy, above all in Tripoli. They said his tour had the twin objective of restarting a political dialogue and warning all parties not to let the military situation get out of control.

Chadian military authorities here said the clashes in the east at Monou, well north of the Red Line, had caused "hundreds" of dead and wounded among the enemy. More than 200 prisoners had been taken, they added.

Yesterday the Chadian Embassy in Paris said Ndjamena forces had intercepted 300 troops of Mr Goukouni's Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT) making their way south on a raid.

Results of 3-Day Battle at Ouaddai Mondo Depicted

AB021939 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] After the smarting failure of the national annihilation forces [reference to FAN] in Ziguey in northern Kanen, the FAN and their proteges have come back with force both politically and militarily to make a face-saving attack. Thus, they launched an attack on positions of the enterprising soldiers of the National Liberation Army [ANL] at Ouaddai Mondo in the Tokon area of Biltine. The valiant soldiers of the ANL did not hesitate to respond to this attack. After a fierce battle of over 2 hours, the assailants were put into disarray and were given a hot pursuit by the ANL. An imposing reinforcement from the French and Zairian forces came to the rescue of the forces in disarray. The battle, which has gone on for 3 days, continues and here is a provisional casualty report: On the enemy side, 354 killed; 4 French soldiers driving reconnaissance vehicles were also killed during this battle. Furthermore, the enemy forces suffered heavy losses in materiel: several vehicles and armored cars; a 106-mm canon mounted on a jeep; 10 DCA 145-mm weapons mounted on vehicles; 1 French-made machine gun of the (Deis) type. The war continues. [passage indistinct]

The whole world is aware that it was actually France which came to fight against our commandos, an act which culminated in the destruction of their Jaguar planes. [Words indistinct] of the eternal enemies of peace in Chad. The ANL forces, who are determined to face the imperialist and reactionary forces to free their fatherland from the imperialist yoke, will sweep all obstacles in their way.

RWANDA

Cheysson Meets With Habyarimana During Stopover

LD031144 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] French Minister of External Relations Claude Cheysson, who left Ndjamena this morning for Addis Ababa, made a technical stopover in Rwanda, during which he met with Rwandan President General Habyarimana. According to Mr Cheysson, the general is one of the African statesmen with whom he wanted to talk during his difficult mission. This mission to solve the Chad problem, let me remind you, takes the French minister to Addis Ababa today, where he will have a meeting with Mr Mengistu, head of the Ethiopian government and OAU acting chairman.

ZAIRE

Further Reports on Egyptian President's Visit

Mubarak Meets With Ambassadors

AB021115 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0900 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 1 Feb (AZAP) — The Egyptian head of state, Husni Mubarak, on Wednesday went for a boat ride on the *MS Kamanyola* with his Zairian counterpart Mobutu Sese Seko. The two presidents, who were accompanied by their close associates, shared a working luncheon offered by the Zairian president. They took the opportunity to continue the discussions which began on Tuesday after the arrival of President Mubarak in Kinshasa.

In the afternoon, the Egyptian head of state was introduced to ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, and representatives of international organizations accredited to Kinshasa at his residence in the Marble Palace.

Present at the ceremony were Umba Di Lutete, state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, and his Egyptian counterpart, Butrus Ghali.

A cocktail reception held in the evening also allowed the Egyptian head of state to talk to a number of diplomats. At the end of this ceremony, Umba Di Lutete granted an interview to the Egyptian press, during which he brought up the issues discussed on Tuesday by President Mobutu, especially the Palestinian problem and the undeclared war imposed on Chad.

Joint Communique Signed

AB021528 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1240 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 2 Feb (AZAP) — Presidents Mubarak and Mobutu Sese Seko have decided to take concrete measures to further strengthen the excellent relations existing between their countries and to promote the cooperation and friendship between their peoples. This was stated in the joint communique signed on Thursday by the two heads of state and which marked the end of the Egyptian president's 3-day official visit to Zaire.

In this connection, Marshal Mobutu explained to the press that the conclusions of the second session of the Great Egyptian-Zairian Joint Commission held in Cairo from 18 to 20 June 1983 gave a new impetus to bilateral cooperation, especially to the development of economic, technical, and scientific cooperation. Since steps had already been taken to implement the decisions of this Cairo meeting, President Mubarak's visit to Zaire is a testimony to the determination of the two countries to go ahead with their cooperation. It is also a demonstration of the friendship and solidarity existing between the Egyptian and Zairian peoples. The most important result of this visit is the consolidation of our bilateral cooperation, President Mobutu said. He also stated that his discussions with his Egyptian counterpart centered mainly on the examination of the international situation and that this detailed examination revealed a convergence of views on the current burning issues.

In this regard, concerning the solution of the Middle East conflict, in the joint communique signed in the Marble Palace shortly before the Egyptian head of state's departure, the head of state and his guest called for the mutual recognition of the states in the region, their right to live within sure, recognized, and guaranteed borders, the total evacuation of all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, as well as the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination and the establishment of a homeland on its territory under the leadership of the PLO, their legitimate representative.

They appealed to Israel to put an end to the policy of establishing colonies in the occupied territories. The two heads of state are of the opinion that this policy constitutes a hindrance to the peace process in the Middle East.

After analyzing the situation in Lebanon, the two presidents called for the withdrawal from that country of all foreign troops stationed there without the agreement of the Lebanese Government.

They urged Iran to respond favorably to Iraq's call for a peaceful solution of the conflict which has existed for some years between these two warring countries.

Concerning the Chadian tragedy and the situation in Western Sahara, Presidents Mobutu and Mubarak reiterated their total support for the Ndjamena government and for the OAU's efforts to achieve a national reconciliation in Chad on the basis of respect for the country's independence and territorial integrity. The communique indicates that only the implementation of the decisions adopted at the OAU summit meeting in Nairobi in 1981 and at the Addis Ababa summit in 1983 can lead to a settlement of the conflict in Western Sahara.

South Africa has once again been condemned for its policy of apartheid, its repeated attacks against the neighboring states, and its continued colonization of Namibia.

Finally, the founding chairman of the MPR accepted an invitation to visit Egypt at a date to be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

Here is the full text of the Egyptian-Zairian Joint Communique:

1. International Situation: After examining the international situation resulting from the new cold war raging throughout the planet, the two heads of state reaffirmed their attachment to the ideals, objectives, and principles of the charters of the United Nations, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement.

A. Nonaligned Movement: They agreed on the need to work to strengthen the action of the Nonaligned Movementin strict adherence to its original principles and stressed Africa's very important role within this movement.

B. The Middle East conflict: Concerning the Middle East, the two presidents stressed the need to intensify the peace efforts in order to overcome the dangers that may result from the continuation of the present explosive situation and the threats they pose to the security and stability of Africa and Asia. The two heads of state reaffirmed the need to establish a just, lasting, and global peace in the Middle East on the basis of the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations and the OAU, particularly those relating to the mutual recognition of the states in the region; to their right to live within sure, recognized, and guaranteed borders; to the total evacuation of all Arab territories occupied since 1967; and the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate right to self-determination and the establishment of a homeland on its territory under the leadership of the PLO, its legitimate representative.

The two presidents appealed to Israel to put an end to the policy of establishment of colonies inside these territories. This constitutes one of the obstacles to the Middle East peace process and a violation of the resolutions of the United Nations, of the Geneva Conventions, and of the rules of international law.

C. Situation in Lebanon: Concerning the situation prevailing in Lebanon the two presidents reaffirmed their support for the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 506-508 as well as for the legitimate Lebanese Government in its efforts to defend that country's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and ensure the resumption of the national reconciliation conference of Geneva. They finally called for the withdrawal from Lebanon of all foreign troops stationed there without the approval of the Lebanese Government.

D. Iran-Iraq War: The two parties also examined the Iran-Iraq conflict, which has been worsening every day and which constitutes a threat to the peace and stability of the region in particular and the world in general. They noted with satisfaction Iraq's declared preparedness to work for a peaceful solution to the conflict and urged Iran to respond favorably to this attitude.

E. Situation in Chad: After examining the latest developments of the situation in Chad, the two heads of state expressed great regret concerning the failure of the Addis Ababa meeting on national reconciliation. They also reiterated their total support for the legitimate government of Chad headed by President Hissein Habre, as well as for the OAU's efforts to find a solution to the Chadian problem based on reconciliation, national independence, and the territorial integrity of the country.

F. Western Sahara: Concerning the problem of Western Sahara, the two heads of state expressed their conviction that its solution lies in the implementation of the decisions adopted during the OAU summit meetings held in Nairobi in 1981 and in Addis Ababa in 1983.

G. Southern Africa: Concerning the situation prevailing in southern Africa, the two heads of state reaffirmed their support for the struggle undertaken by the Namibian people for their national independence under the leadership of SWAPO, their sole and legitimate representative. They expressed their conviction of the need of implementing Security Council Resolution 435 without delay and unconditionally.

In view of the racist South African regime's attempts to destabilize the Frontline States, particularly Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Lesotho, the two presidents expressed their solidarity with the peoples and governments of these countries as well as their support for the people of South Africa in their just struggle for the total elimination of racial discrimination.

H. Subregional Contacts: The two heads of state expressed satisfaction over the success of the ministerial meeting held in Khartoum on 2 November 1983 and which was attended by the CAR, Egypt, Uganda, Sudan, and Zaire. They agreed that the continuation of such meetings can have only positive effects on the relations among the five countries and on the stability and security of the African Continent.

2. Bilateral Relations: The two presidents examined the development of the Egyptian-Zairian relations and expressed happiness over the excellent relations existing between their two countries, and decided to take concrete measures to further strengthen them as well as to promote the cooperation and friendship between the two peoples. They particularly expressed their desire to see the development of their economic, technical, and scientific cooperation.

3. Last Chapter: His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak expressed his deep gratitude to the founding chairman, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, and to the Government and people of Zaire for the warm reception accorded him and the members of his delegation throughout their stay in the Republic of Zaire.

His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak addressed an official invitation to President Mobutu Sese Seko to visit the Arab Republic of Egypt. The invitation was accepted with pleasure by the founding chairman, and the date of this visit will be fixed through diplomatic channels.

Issued in Kinshasa on 2 February 1984

[Signed] For the Arab Republic of Egypt: His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak

For the Republic of Zaire: Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga

GHANA

Water Shortage Causing Energy Crisis, Migration

AB021005 Lagos NAN in English 0950 GMT 2 Feb 84

[By Samuel Ajibola]

[Text] Accra, Feb 1 (NAN) — Farmers and residents of the fertile Afram Plains in Ghana are reported to be migrating southward following an acute water shortage caused by a fall in the level of the Volta Lake — their main source of water for farming and domestic use. A government official said in Accra at the weekend that the water shortage had led to the closing of schools and clinics in the area.

A NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) correspondent in the Ghanaian capital reports that a serious nation-wide energy crisis has been triggered off by the fall in the level of the Volta and other lakes from which much of the country's hydro-electric power is generated. The use of air-conditioners in offices and homes has been banned, load-shedding introduced, and last week the country's major cities were penalized for failing to achieve the targeted reduction in power consumption as directed by the energy curtailment committee. Accra, the capital, would be without electricity for two weeks, as residents were unable to attain the 45-percent targeted reduction in power consumption in the last one month. Kumasi, the second largest city, would also suffer total power blackout for 18 days, as would several other towns in the country for the same reason.

LIBERIA

Defense Counsel Plea Denied in Coup Trial

AB022147 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The Special Military Tribunal today denied the plea of the defense counsel to set free five of the alleged coup plotters charged with high treason to overthrow the People's Redemption Council, the PRC. The five accused are Colonel John D. Nuahn, Captain Allen B.C. Davis, Second Lieutenant Arthur Tuah, Staff Seargent Dzapasu Flumo and Immigration Officer Jefferson Buno. According to the defense, the prosecution has not brought any evidence to link the five accused in connection with the Nimba raids last November or any meeting relating to the overthrow of the PRC Government. The defense argued that the prosecution has produced witnesses relating to the circumstances surrounding the Nimba raids which left seven persons dead last November but according to him the five accused were not named in any instances during the testimony.

The tribunal, which denied the defense plea following a prosecution request that it had refused a prima facie case, described the defense plea as too quick. The tribunal, however, ruled that the accuse, if they win the case, could defend their earlier plea of not guilty. Taking a turn, accused Col John Nuahn denied having any knowledge of the coup plot to overthrow the PRC, or stated that he had advised the former commanding general, Thomas C. Quiwonkpa, to write a letter of apology to the head of state and the Council for not accepting the PRC secretary general position offered him. Accused Nuahn said Quiwonkpa later refused to write to the head of state and the PRC the letter of apology because he had been advised by his wife and aunt to go to school and further his education. [sentence as heard] The trial continues tomorrow.

MALI

'Arafat Meets With Press, Leaves Bamako

AB022135 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The PLO chairman left Bamako this afternoon at the end of a 24-hour visit to our country. Mr Yasir 'Arafat was seen off at the Bamako-Senou international airport by General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People. Also present were members of the Central Executive Bureau, the government, the National Assembly as well as heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Mali. Speaking to our reporter (Mamadou Souleimane Toure), the PLO chairman expressed his great satisfaction with his visit to our country:

[Begin 'Arafat recording; in Arabic fading into French translation] First, I would like to congratulate and to warmly thank Gen Traore for his deep and brotherly feelings toward us. In response the Palestinian fighters express their warm feelings to him. [end recording]

Before leaving Bamako, Yasir 'Arafat this morning gave a news conference at the Hotel de l'amitie. The chairman of the PLO Executive Committee again expressed satisfaction with the Malian people's support for the PLO's cause:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat; in Arabic fading into French translation] Really, I was very touched by these feelings of solidarity and fraternity and I would like to thank the Malian people, on my behalf, and on behalf of the delegation accompanying me, and on behalf of the Palestinian people, for their revolutionary and brotherly support (?for our cause).

[Alhassan Niakasse, *L'ESSOR* newspaper] Rapprochement with Egypt [words indistinct] that the PLO is prepared to accept the principles of the Camp David Accord which was signed in 1979.

['Arafat] One must take into consideration the meaning of the statement made by President Mubarak at his meeting with President Sekou Toure, a member of the commission set up by the recent ICO summit and in which he said that he agreed with the objectives, goals and principles of the decisions made in (?Rabat). Does this summit not constitute the basis for the liberation [words indistinct]? Can you understand the meaning of the decision made by the Egyptian Government in mobilizing the Egyptian Army, Navy and Air Force to protect the Palestinians upon their departure? Were they to protect the Palestinians or Israel? [words indistinct] [end recording]

NIGERIA

First Council of State Meeting Reported

AB312223 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 31 Jan 84

[Text] The first meeting of the National Council of State was held today in Lagos at Dodan Barracks. The meeting was under the chairmanship of the head of state and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Major General Muhammadu Buhari. An official statement at the end of the meeting said that the Council considered many crucial issues of national importance and also deliberated on the reports from the military governors on their experiences since they assumed duty. The Council took note of the two decrees: the Constitutional Suspension and Modification Decree of 1984 and the State Security Detention of Persons Decree of 1984, to be promulgated by the Federal Military Government. It reviewed the security situation in the country and noted the need to be vigilant and firm on all matters affecting the security of the nation.

On the question of political detainees and escapees, the Council took note of efforts so far made and that were being made to recover all the ill-gotten wealth as well as diplomatic and other means to secure escapees and to recover from them the nation's wealth they illegally stuffed abroad. It considered and approved guidelines which were to be followed by all states in handling political detainees. The Council accepted that tribunals should be set up as soon as possible to try all those now held in detention and who are suspected to have committed various offenses against the laws of the country and those who contributed to the economic problems now facing the country.

In an effort to solve the issue of scarcity of essential commodities, the Council approved a number of guidelines. It directed that all goods impounded which were supported with waybills, invoices, and other valid papers should not be detained or sold. In case of doubt, the matter should be brought to the attention of the state military governor for a decision. Other facts are that sales of impounded goods should be supervised by the office of the military government in each state, while goods in warehouses suspected to be hoarded should be disposed of at the instance of the state governor. It added that all manufacturers and major distributors should supply the full location of their main depots or warehouses in various states to the office of the military government to facilitate their operations.

On the issue of armed robbery in the country, the Council decided that the Federal Military Government should take some measures to stamp out the crime from the society.

Suggestion To Move Top Detainees Reported

AB021750 Lagos NAN in English 1653 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text][Place name indistinct] Feb.2 (NAN) — A former commissioner under the defunct administration in Anambra, Chief Thomas Chigbo, has suggested that the Federal Military Government should accommodate the country's "top detainees" in a commandeered countryside hotel with maximum security, instead of Kirkiri Prison. Addressing a news conference yesterday, Chief Chigbo argued that keeping the top detainees at Kirikiri "is definitely bad for our image," adding that unless his suggestion was taken, "fugitive [passage indistinct] their host countries which he said that "fleeing offenders" would claim that they would not receive fair treatment. Chief Chigbo, expressed disappointment with media reports which he claimed reported that he was wanted by the police even after he had reported to the police for clearance.

Chief of Staff Leaves for Visit to Sudan

AB021450 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, left Lagos today on an official visit to Sudan. Brig Idiagbon is expected to hold talks with the Sudanese president, Ja'far Numayri. The chief of staff is expected back on Saturday. The Sudanese leader recently visited Nigeria during which talks were held between Nigeria and the Sudan.

New Envoy to United Nations To Assume Duties

AB021805 Lagos NAN in English 1649 GMT 2 Feb 84

["Nigeria's New Permanent Representative at UN Resumes Duty" — NAN headline]

[Text] New York, Feb. 2 (NAN) — [Passage indistinct] This follows his appointment to the post, a few weeks ago, by the Federal Government. Retired Maj.-Gen. Garba replaces Prof. Ishaya Audu, who was relieved of the post following last December's military take-over. The new permanent representative is expected to present his credentials to the UN Secretary general when he returns from his West African tour.

The New York correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reports that the appointment of Maj.-Gen Garba has attracted a lot of favourable comments, especially from the African ambassadors to the UN, who see him as an able representative of one of the largest developing countries in the world body.

One major task that the Nigerian permanent representative to the UN will face within the next few days is the election of a new chairman for the UN Special Committee for Action Against Apartheid. The election will be a keenly contested one between Nigeria and Guinea and indications are that because of Maj.-Gen Garba's past experience with the workings of the anti-apartheid committee, he stands a better chance of being elected chairman of the committee. Nigeria had held the chairmanship of the committee for six years.

SENEGAL

UN's Perez de Cuellar Arrives for Visit

AB021645 Dakar Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Demba Ndiaye has just returned to the studio unexpectedly from the airport where he went to meet Mr Perez de Cuellar.

[Begin recording][unidentified announcer] Did he arrive safely?

[Ndiaye] Yes, he has arrived safely. It was at 1230 exactly. He was met by a large government delegation led by the Minister of foreign affairs, Moustapha Niasse. [end recording].

Meets Abdou Diouf

AB022159 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The UN Secretary General was received this afteroon by President Abdou Diouf. Relations between Senegal and the United Nations, drought in the Sahel, and its consequences on the economic situation were expected to be at the center of their t a l k s .

Algerian Joint Commission Delegation Arrives

AB022130 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 1 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The Algerian delegation that is to participate in the deliberations of the second session of the Senegal-Algeria Joint Commission, arrived this afternoon in Dakar. The delegation, led by Lieutenant Colonel Said Ait-Messaoudena, was welcomed by Cheikh Amidou Kane, the minister of planning and cooperation. Here is the statement made to the press by the leader of the Algerian delegation:

[Begin recording] It is always with joy and strong and deep sentiments that I come to Senegal. [words indistinct] It is therefore natural that the first of my duties consists of transmitting immediately the message of friendship, fraternity and solidarity from the Algerian people to the generous people of Senegal. The interministerial delegation I have the honor to head is here in response to the recent visit of President Abdou Diouf to our country at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid.

The interministerial delegation [words indistinct] was also capable of responding to the political will expressed solemnly by the two presidents to anchor their cooperation by transforming it into deeds. The creation of the Algeria-Senegal Joint Commission in itself constituted a decisive step in this direction. Other steps have followed and during this third session additional landmarks will also be fixed. On this occasion, the joint commission will have to strengthen further this cooperation between the two countries on a tangible basis. This bilateral cooperation must be seen as a means of developing reciprocal interests, especially in this period of world economic crisis, because it is the Third World countries that bear the brunt of it. That is to say it is vital for them to review their trade activities and to organize themselves accordingly. [end recording]

It must be stated that the deliberations of the Algeria-Senegal Joint Commission start tomorrow at 0930 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will be cochaired by Cheikh Amidou Kane, the minister of planning and cooperation and Lt Col Said Ait-Messaoudene, the Algerian minister of light industry whom you just heard. This means that for 3 days, the delegations of Senegal and Algeria will have the opportunity to promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of commercial exchanges, transportation, energy, oil research, water resources, animal breeding, agriculture, tourism, finance and culture.

UPPER VOLTA

CNR Issues Communique on National Security

AB030955 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Press communique from the National Council of the Revolution on national security; date not given]

[Text] Each day the revolutionary peoople of Upper Volta show more interest in and make demands for the consolidation of the security network to which they have a legitimate right. The many observations, proposals, opinions and other signs of firm commitment to and support for the observance of strict vigilance on the part of all organs testify to this.

It is true that the people, being aware, are organized and they ensure their own defense. Our militant people are ready to show proof of their determination and mobilization against any moves, any counterrevolutionary, stupid, reactionary and imperialist maneuvers. These numerous recommdendations for vigilance which have been expressed verbally or written either to the National Council of the Revolution [CNR] or to the Department of National Defense or to the security forces, have come from all provinces, from civilian and military, from the Revolutionary Defense Committees, [CDR] paramilitary forces, troops, detachments, people's vigilante brigades, and so on.

After taking this into account and putting this concern in concrete terms, the minister of national defense and veterans affairs announces:

1. It is recalled that all people should rigorously respect the curfew. Those who fail to do so will be responsible for the consequences that might follow.

2. Systematic control and sudden searches will be organized in all places and at all times throughout the country, and each person is requested to comply with these without hesitation or comment.

3. All persons, Upper Voltans and foreigners, must instantly obey the demands and instructions that the forces of defense and security have been ordered to carry out.

4. Issuance of curfew permits will be strictly limited to those whose services are needed. Any misuse of the permits will be duly punished.

5. Special security zones, known as high security zones, have been established and marked out temporarily or permanently, and instructions have been given to open fire on tresspassers. Control in these high security zones is systematic and strict, and passage is very regulated or formally forbidden, especially at night. At the moment, these areas are the immediate surroundings of the Council of Entente, the presidency, and the palace, where passage at night is forbidden and regulated at certain points. Persons who have been issued with passes and invited guests will be specially exempted.

6. All CDR's, militants, soldiers and paramilitary forces are called upon to observe, expose and report all actions affecting the internal and external security of our peoples.

These measures take effect from the day of announcement of this communique.

Fatherland or death, we will win.

Kaunda Opens SADCC Meeting, Requests Drought Aid
MB021440 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has painted a grim picture of the grave drought conditions that are prevailing in southern Africa, and made a passionate appeal for urgent international assistance. Dr Kaunda pointed out, however, that members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC, will have to double their own efforts to achieve self-sufficiency. The president was speaking when he officially opened the fourth annual consultative SADCC meeting at Lusaka's Mulungushi Hall this morning. He said the meeting was being held at a time when the whole region is sweltering under the heat of one of the longest standing droughts in the last 50 years. Dr Kaunda said the drought has destroyed large numbers of livestock and crops, resulting in widespread famine. He said the drought has continued with its mission of devastation, thereby creating large food deficits, poor prospects of strategic agricultural growth, and the necessity of food imports to cover the deficits.

The president said each of the SADCC member states has its own list of areas affected by the drought, and that the situation is very grave. He said the situation requires urgent international attention, and hoped the international community would cooperate generously to alleviate the situation. Dr Kaunda told the delegates that the region could not be [word indistinct] at the economic recovery being (?left) in developed countries now. He said this economic recovery has not covered Third World countries. The president had also said South Africa can take its natural place in SADCC as soon as it abandons its apartheid policies. He said SADCC will not be diverted, but will continue to forge bonds of economic cooperation among the people of the region, despite South Africa's destabilizaiton efforts and growing military might. Dr Kaunda said SADCC had proved a thorn in the side of its enemies so far. He said the enemies have made several attempts to (?persuade it) through sabotage, aggression, subversion, and even occupation of member countries.

The EEC has meanwhile allocated a total of $175 million for rural development in a regional program for SADCC countries. In a statement issued by EEC Director for Southern Africa (Giovanni Liventaco) and released in Lusaka today, the director has said that more than (?50) percent of the funds would be [words indistinct]. Mr (Liventaco) said the community has also responded positively to the SADCC appeal for emergency aid and food, in view of the severe drought that has hit the region for the past (?2) years. Zambia has been given a total of $1.2 million to improve farmers' production, while programs interesting to other African countries in the area have been approved for funding.

Kaunda, Mmusi Score Pretoria
AB021335 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 2 Feb 84

[By Andrew Meldrum]

[Text] Lusaka, Feb 2 (AFP) — Black southern African leaders attacked South Africa at the start of a regional aid donors conference here today for using its arms and wealth to foil their development plans, but one saw a glimmer of hope in Pretoria's latest diplomacy.

Zambia's President Kenneth Kaunda, hosting a meeting where the nine-nation Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) hopes to attract 236 million dollars in urgent assistance for its drought-stricken members, said SADCC's "leading enemy has been, and still is, racist South Africa."

"The leaders of South Africa have, with characteristic impunity, mobilized all their military and economic might to destabilize SADCC," the Zambian president said. "We in SADCC do not want to be at war with anybody. We know that the internally generated social and political problems of South Africa cannot be solved by extending them beyond their national boundaries."

Botswana's Vice-President Peter Mmusi, chairing the meeting, echoed Mr Kaunda's criticism of Pretoria's military raids and economic pressure on neighboring black states.

But he added that in the past two weeks there had been "tentative signs that South Africa may be adopting a less aggressive stance," a clear reference to Pretoria's security and economic negotiations with Mozambique and its declaration of a cease-fire in the Namibian conflict, along with a disengagement of its troops in southern Angola.

Mr Mmusi said it was "too early to make a judgment on how real this change is or how far it may go. However, such as it is we welcome it and hope it may go further."

He told delegates from 67 mainly Western donor countries and organizations, that the signs of change from South Africa had come about as a result of international pressure. "This pressure has been in large measure a response to the solidarity of the SADCC states," he said. "We further believe that more international pressure, not less, is essential if peaceful progress is to be achieved."

The SADCC's current members are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Mr Mmusi said the organization looked forward to the day Namibia became independent of South Africa so it could join, and Mr Kaunda asserted: "When South Africa abandons apartheid, she will find her natural place in SADCC — but not before."

The speeches in Lusaka's Mulungushi Hall were warmly received by the donor delegations who have already pledged millions of dollars to SADCC's projects — mainly transport and communications — since its founding in 1980, and who are expected to respond sympathetically to the drought-aid requests.

A report prepared for presentation to the Lusaka meeting, which ends tomorrow, estimates that the regional drought now in its third year cost SADCC members 920.9 million dollars in 1982-83 alone. The report said the financial burden "could

cripple the region for years to come" as its members, most of whose 60 million people already live at subsistence level, strive toward their goals of development and decreased dependence on white-minority-ruled South Africa.

The donors meeting, an annual event, is being attended by cabinet ministers from Britain, France, West Germany, Austria, Sweden and Denmark. The European Economic Community is represented by Development Commissioner Edgard Pisani.

The conference will also be addressed by Commonwealth Secretary General Shridath Ramphal and Edouard Saouma, director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

UK Refuses Additional Funding

MB031034 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The British Government has said it will not pledge any further funds to the Southern African Development Coordination Conference [SADCC] because the organization has not spent about 28 million kwacha already pledged to it. Addressing the SADCC meeting at Mulungushi Hall, the British minister for overseas development, Mr (Renson) said that last year he was able to announce that Britain had set aside further money for SADCC, but will not do so this year because only a tiny fraction of the money pledged has so far been spent. He hoped good progress would be made in drawing the funds this year, adding that the most realistic course was to make headway with the expenditure of this [word indistinct] before considering further commitments.

ANGOLA

Luanda Alleges 'U.S. Officers' Plan RSA Operations

MB021611 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Reports from Lubango town say that South African troops are continuing to occupy large areas in the Angola's Cunene Province. The commanding officer of the 5th Military Region, Lieutenant Colonel Salviano Sequeira Kianda, denied all reports circulated on Tuesday by the main Western radio networks claiming that South Africa would begin withdrawing from Angola as of yesterday. According to local military sources, sporadic clashes which continued until late yesterday have taken place over the past few days in the combat areas. The commanding officer of the 5th Military Region, which includes the provinces of Cunene, Cuando Cubango, Huila, and Namibe, says that South African troops in Otechinjau, Cunene, who reportedly withdrew the day before yesterday, were detected by Angolan reconnaissance groups. They were covered in black paint, with the intention of misleading people to believe that the said soldiers belong to the puppet gangs in South Africa's pay.

Since 14 December the racist troops have carried out large-scale operations against Cahama, Cuvelai, Mulondo, Caiundo, and other areas. In the operations the South African Army engaged a large number of men and military equipment, some of which have never been used in similar operations, namely 1,500-kg bombs, toxic and paralyzing agents, and G-5 howitzers capable of firing nuclear warheads. The objective of the racists in this operation, planned by US officers who were sent to Namibia, was to destroy (?Namibian refugees) who live in defenseless areas; but they were met with a prompt response from the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola.

These actions, irrefutable proof of the continuation of the South African aggression against Angola, were distorted by the international press, the main radio networks, and press agencies, which over the past few days carried the report which was broadly published by the racist authorities on a sham cease-fire and the subsequent withdrawal of their troops from Angola. A telex which reached us from the Portuguese news agency, for example, said that the South African prime minister, Pieter Botha, had announced in his Parliament that South Africa was going to withdraw its troops from Angola after guarantees given to it by the United States. At the same time, the Voice of America also reported on 31 January that the South African Army was going to begin withdrawing from southern Angola as of yesterday, 1 February.

The aggression which South Africa is carrying out against Angola has been vigorously condemned by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who called on the international community to take vigorous measures against the invaders. Accordingly, the Security Council, responding to the Angolan appeal, met twice during the incursion and took measures regarded as necessary to check South Africa's action. In view of this action, South Africa began to propagandize that it was going to cease hostilities on the Angolan territory and find a formula for peace and withdrawal.

FRG Group Visits; 123 UNITA Men Killed in Moxico

MB021630 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The international community continues to manifest concern over the war in Angola and plans to send delegations to our country to assess the consequences of this war. In this context, a FRG parliamentary delegation composed of members of the Social Democratic Party has been in Luanda since the day before yesterday and has already held meetings with the ministers of foreign affairs and industry and the secretary of the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party for foreign affairs and SWAPO President Sam Nujoma. During the meetings the three FRG members of parliament gathered information on the war imposed on the Angolan people and the developments in the situation in southern Africa, and also discussed bilateral issues.

The FRG members of parliament will meet with the state secretary for cooperation, Carlos Fernandes, this afternoon, after which they will leave for Bonn. The FRG members of parliament have already visited Lesotho and Zambia, where they held meetings like those they are currently holding in our country. A delegation from the World Peace Council will also visit Angola this month with an objective similar to that of the three FRG statesmen.

It is important to note that the visit by the FRG parliamentarians to Angola coincided with a new development in the imperialist propaganda against the People's Republic of Angola, and with a new and important victory of the Angolan Armed Forces in Moxico Province. From 28 January to 1 February more than 123 UNITA counterrevolutionaries were killed as they were attempting to capture (?Luena) municipality in Moxico Province. During the fighting the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola wounded an unknown number of enemy soldiers and captured a captain in the South African army. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were also seized, including hand grenades and 60-mm mortars and other South African-made equipment which the puppets receive from South Africa.

Delegation Meets Nujoma, Departs

MB030833 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The FRG parliamentary delegation from the German Social Democratic Party left Luanda last night, after a 48-hour visit to Angola. During their stay in our country, these officials from the FRG held talks with the minister of foreign affairs and industry, the secretary of the Party Central Committee for External Relations, and the state secretary for cooperation. During the meetings with Angolan authorities and with SWAPO President Sam Nujoma, the FRG deputies were able to ascertain the situation in southern Africa and in the People's Republic of Angola in particular.

Just before leaving Luanda, Dr (Auschler), one of the deputies who had previously spoken to the national media, considered the results of his party's visit to Angola very encouraging.

Dr (Auschler) further stated that his party, the Social Democratic Party, favors an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of South African troops from southern Angola and the application of Resolution 435/78 of the UN Security Council on Namibia. He added that South Africa should cease supporting the counterrevolutionary bond of UNITA so that peace may reign on Angolan soil.

It should be noted that Dr (Auschler) had previously stated that all reports and impressions obtained in Angola, as well as those from other countries which the FRG delegation has visited in southern Africa, would be made public in his country and debated in parliament.

Dos Santos Names 3 New Provincial Leaders

MB030709 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the president of the People's Republic of Angola, has made changes in the governmental leadership of the provinces of Cabinda, Zaire, and Uige by six decrees issued in Luanda yesterday. Accordingly, the Angolan head of state has relieved Comrade Armando Dembo from the post of provincial commissioner of Cabinda, Comrade (Jorge Barros Simpwati) from the post of provincial commissioner of Zaire, and Manuel Quarta Punza from the post of provincial commissioner of Uige.

The president of the Republic appointed Comrade (Jorge Barros Simpwati) to the post of provincial commissioner of Cabinda, Comrade Artur Vidal Gomes to the post of provincial commissioner of Zaire, and Comrade Zeferino Estevao Juliano to the post of acting provincial commissioner of Uige.

Commentary Scores RSA 'Propaganda Campaign'

MB021610 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The generally unreserved condemnation by the international community of racist South Africa's warlike provocations in the southern region of our free and sovereign territory confirms the legitimacy of our struggle for the defense of our territorial integrity. However, in order to reestablish peace in the region, our country has demonstrated its goodwill in searching for an internationally acceptable settlement to the Namibian issue within the framework of Resolution 435/78 of the UN Security Council.

In contrast to these peaceful wishes, racist South Africa continues to obstinately occupy large parts of our Cunene Province. At the same time it is unleashing a false propaganda campaign aimed at portraying itself as a regime which has been inspired by the most burning designs of peace.

Since South Africa is providing a massive amount of support for the UNITA pu,ppet gangs, and we are aware of its hypocritical carrot-and-stick tactic, the People's Republic of Angola must continue to pay special attention to improving and perfecting its defense capability. This war which imperialism and racist South Africa imposes on us is an onerous war of aggression which is undeniably affecting our programs for economic and social development. As a result, we must concentrate all our efforts on achieving this year's main goals, organize an economy which can support the war, and wage war to defend the economy. This link between defense and production will guide our action in all of our activities toward the strengthening of our economy and, finally, to ensuring the survival of our sovereign and independent state.

As the comrade president stressed in his New Year message, Angola is a peaceful country which is being attacked, and the international community should take note of this and call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all invading South African forces from our territory.

As long as the four conditions which President Jose Eduardo dos Santos laid down during the UN secretary general's last visit to our country and the means of ensuring Resolution 435 of the Security Council are not met, the Angolan people from Cabinda to Cunene will have no other alternative but to strengthen security and the defense capability on all fronts. Our action will mainly be directed against the invading South African forces and their UNITA proteges, and our diplomatic efforts will not stop

until the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the South African forces from our country.

BOTSWANA

Defense Force Fires on Men Near Zimbabwe Border

MB0306[illegible] Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] A release from the Botswana Defense Force [BDF] headquarters by the acting commander of the BDF, Brigadier Ian Khama, says that at 1515 yesterday afternoon, a BDF patrol in the (Matsina-Garedi) area along the border with Zimbabwe saw a group of 20-30 armed men on horseback wearing the Zimbabwe National Army uniform inside Botswana. The release says the BDF challenged the group, but the challenge was not complied with, whereupon the BDF patrol opened fire. The armed men fled into Zimbabwe and from there opened fire at the BDF patrol. An exchange of fire then took place. Three horses were killed and various items of military equipment were captured by the BDF.

Shortly afterwards, BDF reinforcements arrived and the armed men withdrew further into Zimbabwe, away from the scene. The BDF suffered no casualties.

LESOTHO

Government Urges RSA To Consult on Income Tax

MB021810 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The Lesotho Government says it does not have any say in the South African decision to charge income tax on salaries of people working in the Republic of South Africa. In its statement released today in connection with the said decision, the minister of foreign affairs and labor, the Honorable E.R. Sekhonyana, said he believes that if the South Africa decision to charge income tax on the salaries of people working in the Republic is to affect the Basotho people working there, there should have been consultations between the two governments.

The minister said according to the agreement of August 1973 between the two countries, if Basotho people working in the Republic are to be charged income tax, there should be consultations between the two countries concerning the matter, and the tax which would be accrued from the charges should then be collected by the Lesotho Government. The minister said the Lesotho Government is prepared to hold talks with the RSA and solve the existing misunderstanding.

He added that there is a need for the two sides to hold talks, since if the Lesotho Government is to charge [its] people working in the Republic income tax, it would mean that these people are being charged income tax twice, and this according to him is contrary to the 1973 agreement between the two countries. The minister appealed to the Basotho people working in the Republic not to do anything that might hinder mutual talks between the two sides as far as this matter is concerned.

MADAGASCAR

Economic Cooperation Talks With France Conclude

AB022215 Paris AFP in English 1333 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] Antananarivo, Feb 2 (AFP) — France and Madagascar have wound up their first cooperation talks since 1980 with a joint statement stressing their "friendly and fruitful" relations.

The statement was signed by Malagasy Finance Minister Pascal Rakotomavo and by French Cooperation and Development Minister Christian Nucci, who is on a tour of the region.

France's total aid to Madagascar totals around 800 million French francs (just under a million dollars) a year.

It is used chiefly to help the island's economic recovery by boosting agriculture and industry, increasing and diversifying exports and seeking self-sufficiency in energy.

After the talks, Mr Nucci left for Lusaka to take part in Southern African Development Coordination Conference meeting which opened today.

MOZAMBIQUE

Government Requests Rescheduling of External Debt

MB021825 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique decided, after an analysis of the country's economic and financial position, to ask its creditors for a rescheduling of its external debt, which amounts to 54 million contos. This was announced by a government source in Maputo this afternoon.

The request for the rescheduling of the external debt is the consequence of several factors, primarily external ones, which have all had a negative effect on our economy since the proclamation of independence.

Among these factors, we can point out the direct aggression from South Africa in addition to the aggression conducted by the armed bandits, the effects of natural disasters, the effects of the severe economic and financial world crisis, as well as the effects of the sanctions which had been imposed against Rhodesia and the Rhodesian aggression against our country. These factors are affecting an economy which, in 1975 — the date of the proclamation of independence — was in recession and suffering serious fluctuations caused by heavy dependence on the outside world.

The Mozambique economy was a backward and underdeveloped one and was based essentially on the railway and harbor services rendered to neighboring countries and on the dispatch of labor for the mines and farms in South Africa and, formerly, Rhodesia. The outside dependence also extended to agriculture and industry, which was heavily dependent on imports. For 20 consecutive years our people suffered from a war of aggression: colonialism, aggression, economic sabotage, lootings, dependence and under-

development that caused losses estimated at $5,554 million, which is the equivalent of 195 million contos. The governments of the creditor countries were informed about the Council of Ministers' decision on the rescheduling of the external debt this afternoon.

Crocker Meets With Machel, Returns to RSA

MB021930 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan's chief African envoy, Chester Crocker, has described his talks here today with President Samora Machel as very positive and very useful. Mr Crocker told reporters at the airport that his discussions with President Samora had covered a whole series of developments and trends in southern Africa, including Namibia, Mozambique's relations with South Africa, and bilateral relations between Mozambique and the United States. He said the impression was that there was a good deal of common ground on the need to pursue the opening for detente and greater security, based on the real interests of everyone in the region. Mr Crocker, who is assistant secretary of state for African affairs, arrived in Maputo yesterday on the latest stage of his tour of the region that also took him to South Africa, Zambia, Malawi, and Tanzania. He has now gone back to South Africa and will shortly travel on to Europe.

Law of Sea Portuguese Translation Meeting Ends

MB021940 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] In Maputo yesterday, Raposo Pereira, the attorney general of the Republic, presided over the closing session of the meeting of experts from the seven Portuguese-speaking countries on the translation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Addressing delegates from Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, and Sao Tome and Principe, he expressed satisfaction with the successes achieved by the experts in the translation of the Convention, which he described as an important legal instrument in the Portuguese language.

In turn, the head of the Mozambique delegation to the meeting referred to the importance of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and pointed out that the instrument was aimed at regulating the utilization of maritime and seabed resources.

Diplomats Survey Damage Caused by Cyclone

MB021449 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The latest news on the Incomati River is that its rise is expected to exceed the levels registered in 1976. Several ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Maputo flew over and visited the areas which suffered the greatest damage from the cyclone, having indicated their countries' interest in supporting the rescue operations in various operations. These diplomats also indicated their countries' wish to aid in repairing the serious damage which was visible.

Although the level of the Maputo River has subsided somewhat, today more boats will be sent on rescue operations, because the Maputo River situation is expected to worsen due to the intense rains which fell over South Africa. Major General Jose Moiane, governor of Maputo, who has directed the salvage operations in this area, revealed that the Tembe and Changalane Rivers have caused great damage to the bridges, railroad lines, and roads in the region. During the course of the salvage operations on the Umbeluzi River yesterday, 400 people were found isolated in two different places.

In an interview given to Radio Mozambique, the administrator of Moamba District stated that besides the loss of human lives, an incalculable number of homes and plantations were destroyed by the waters. He also said that this situation caused serious problems in reaching the district by road from Maputo, because the rains which have fallen over the last few days have rendered the Maputo-Machava-Moamba road virtually impassable.

Notification of Floods

MB301840 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1400 GMT 30 Jan 84

[Excerpt] We have received an important notice from the Department for Prevention of and Combat Against Natural Disasters on the floods south of the Save River, which we now read to you:

We wish to warn the populations which live by the banks of the Rivers Incomati, Umbuluzi, Limpopo, Maputo, and Tembe and their tributaries that they must very immediately leave the lower areas and take shelter in higher areas due to the current floods, which appear to be getting worse. District and village authorities must make sure that they immediately move those in dangerous areas to higher locations.

The Demoina depression, now weakening, is at this time centered southwest of Maputo and over Swaziland. This was announced this afternoon by the Mozambique Meteorological Services. The depression may, however, still affect parts of the Provinces of Gaza and Maputo, particularly the areas of Catuane, Boane, Changalane, and Namaacha, with unstable weather and associated rains. According to information and photographs published by the Mozambique Meteorological Services, there is a possibility that the depression might have affected some of drought-stricken areas in the Provinces of Inhambane and Gaza.

NAMIBIA

SWAPO Said Likely To Accept RSA Cease-fire Offer

MB030719 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] It's expected that SWAPO will accept South Africa's cease-fire offer on Namibia. An unconfirmed report says SWAPO will conditionally accept the peace offer made by South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha on Monday. SWAPO is

expected to call for direct talks with South Africa on the implementation of the United Nations peace plan for Namibia as contained in Resolution 435.

Meanwhile, there's been a call for fresh contacts between the world body and the two waring parties. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar says new contacts with South Africa and SWAPO are imperative in view of recent developments. He is to hold talks with UN special representative on Namibia (Marti Ahtisati) on Sunday.

Conditions of Acceptance Viewed

MB030935 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 3 Feb 84 p 1

[By John Battersby, London Bureau]

[Excerpt] London — The confusion surrounding SWAPO's reaction to the South African Government's offer of a conditional ceasefire in the South-West African border war will be ended with a conditional acceptance by SWAPO, it has been reliably learnt in London. It has now been confirmed that a reported dismissal by the SWAPO president, Mr Sam Nujoma, of the South African offer announced by the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, in Parliament on Monday was in fact based on remarks he had made on arrival in Dar es Salaam several hours before Mr Botha's statement.

It is reliably understood that SWAPO will react positively to Mr Botha's ceasefire offer within the next few days, but will make its acceptance conditional on direct talks with South Africa about the implementation of the United Nations independence plan as set out in Security Council Resolution 435.

It was indicated recently that the South African Government is prepared to talk to SWAPO through its administrator-general in Windhoek. But when SWAPO agreed to such talks on condition the agenda would be confined to practical matters surrounding a ceasefire and implementation of Resolution 435, the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, contemptuously dismissed the SWAPO acceptance as a ploy.

But there are now indications South Africa would be prepared to agree to such talks once the cease-fire agreement with Angola was in operation. SWAPO would insist, however, that the administrator-general of SWA would be vested with power to talk on the government's behalf and would not have to report back to Pretoria first.

While SWAPO is known to be suspicious of Pretoria's ceasefire offer, it is understood that because of a combination of American and behind-the-scenes Angolan pressure SWAPO has !ittle option but to go along.

SWAPO insists that unless it is party to the ceasefire arrangement with Angola, South Africa could easily break off the ceasefire by acting against SWAPO inside SWA and therefore the whole arrangement would be meaningless.

'Pressure' on RSA Considered

MB021840 Windhoek DIE SUIDWESTER in Afrikaans 27 Jan 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Signs of the Times"]

[Text] It does not exactly require thorough research and academic grounding or prophetic insight to see that the South-West African question is now being purposefully forced in a definite direction. The many pressure groups that have suddenly come into action as if regimented, confirms the suspicion that South Africa will be forced to a large extent to take a final stand on South-West Africa.

With only 10 months before the next expected American presidential election, the Reagan adminsitration will also try to record the necessary points in its African politics in 1984. In addition to this, the UN Security Council, Russia, SWAPO, and ANC, the frontline states, the Western Contact group, Angola with its Cubans, and even British opposition parties have made the necessary noises.

Notwithstanding the pressure groups that have come into action, it is also especially significant to take note of the broad strategy which lies at the basis of the offensive. Some demand that South Africa should end its illegal occupation of South-West Africa, and that South African forces should withdraw from South-West Africa. Others demand that South-West Africa should become independent immediately according to the terms of Resolution 435. A further strategy is to try to implement a peaceful settlement by means of negotiations and discussion instead of confrontation and conflict.

This situation places South Africa in a very delicate position, especially in light of earlier undertakings that the inhabitants of South-West Africa themselves should decide on their welfare. It is strongly doubted if there can still be ideas in this regard.

It is the apparently organized onslaught from press circles within South Africa which is causing feelings against South Africa that is arousing the suspicion that South Africa has reached the point where it can end its involvement in and its responsibility over South-West Africa. Whether South Africa will consider such a step will depend greatly on its leaders' perspective of the communist threat in Africa, and whether the consequences of its continued invovement in South-West Africa in the light of threatening sanctions and outside pressure will allow it to remain involved much longer. Time will soon tell, but the signs of the times are there.

Multiparty Conference Said 'Maneuvered' By RSA

MB021022 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 2 Feb 84 p 7

[By Tony Weaver]

[Text] Mr P.W. Botha's Tuesday announcement — that South African forces have begun a disengagement in Angola — had such dramatic impact, that his statements on the new status of a strange grouping of internal Namibian political parties got lost

in the hurly-burly. But that group of six parties, who are presently meeting under the title of the Multi Party Conference (MPC) are fully aware of the importance of their new status. And so is the South African Government, which has long sought a reasonably credible alternative inside Namibia for their favorite ogre, the South West Africa Peoples Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia.

Mr Botha heaped veiled praise on the heads of the MPC during his Tuesday afternoon announcement, saying the six will fall within the framework established by South Africa and the Western Contact Group. Unfortunately for the MPC — as history has shown — organisations carrying the South African seal of approval inevitably get rejected by the Namibian masses, especially when they are perceived by Namibians as being part of the delaying process designed to postpone the never never day of independence.

Each of the leaders of the various delegations had a chance to speak on different subjects. Mr Dirk Mudge, Namibia's most seasoned moderate politician, spoke for the Democratic Turn halle Alliance (DTA). Andreas Shipanga — expelled from SWAPO for revisionism — spoke for SWAPO-D, a party which is generally classified as being black nationalist, differing little from the founding principles of SWAPO. Moses Katjioungua — the flamboyant Maoist turned moderate — spoke for the South West National Union, while Eben van Zijl spoke on behalf of the rightwing National Party.

Completing the line-up were the ultra-conservative Hans Diergaard of the Rehoboth Liberation Front, which seeks "independence" for the tiny "principality" ruled by the Rehoboth Basters, and Justus Garoeb, long-time sleeping ally of SWAPO — an outspoken black nationalist who leads the Damara Raad.

Their pronouncements on Tuesday herald a major shift in the pattern of Namibian internal politics, and indeed, in the whole Namibian ball game. First off, they announced that work had already begun on drawing up a constitution for post-independence Namibia.

The bombshell pronouncement meant one thing and one thing only. They are pre-empting phases eight and nine of the implementation of United Nations Resolution 435, which makes provision for the election of a constituent assembly which will draw up the very same constitution the MPC has taken upon itself to compose.

Second, they announced that although it was not as yet definite, one of the alternatives they were considering as part of their deliberations on political developments, was the formation of an "interim government." This ties in exactly with the provisions made in Dr van Niekerk's proclamation for the abortive State Council — rejected by all internal parties excepting the DTA, the National Party and the tiny NCDP.

Their promise to Mr Botha that they would — as a matter of urgency — work towards a political and constitutional framework acceptable to the majority of Namibians, echoes almost exactly the State Council's mandate. The method of voting, deciding important matters in committees, and of later testing their decisions in a referendum or election, also echoed the State Council's mandate.

Finally, party leaders on Tuesday stressed that although they could not be definite about things at this stage, the possibility existed that they could fight independence elections as a united front.

Mr Shipanga was clearly unhappy about this, as he was about the vague murmurings on an interim government, but he is in the MPC for better or worse and could find himself committed to an anti-SWAPO election front — indirectly sponsored by South Africa.

Whether the MPC likes it or not, they have been manoeuvred by the South African Government into forming a back-door state council. At the same time, they have significantly altered the internal dynamic of Namibian policy, by actively working towards an alternative to Resolution 435.

SOUTH AFRICA

Minister Releases Names of 3 Charged With Espionage

MB021656 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] The minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, has made public the names of the two civilians and a national serviceman who have been detained under the Internal Security Act. They are Ronald Hunter, a national serviceman attached to Defense Headquarters in Pretoria, Patricia Murray, and Derek Hanekom. The three were arrested in connection with allegations of espionage. All three have been in custody since December last year. The charge of alleged high treason and/or contravention of the Internal Security Act is being investigated by the police. Once this investigation is completed, the matter will be referred to the attorney general for his decision.

Botha Expects U.S. To Respect Commitment on Angola

LD022141 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 2 Feb 84

[Text] In Cape Town, the minister of foreign affairs says the South African Government announcement of a disengagement in Angola was founded on assurances received from the United States, and that South Africa expected the United States to adhere to those commitments. Mr Botha told the House of Assembly that by the same token South Africa would not do anything that was inconsistent with assurances it had given to the United States.

Referring to South-West Africa/Namibia, Mr Botha said that in 1 year South Africa had spent about $1.5 billion in the territory, and that this was a lot of money, considering that the territory and its 1 million inhabitants were not a part of South Africa. Mr Botha said that, in many instances, the interests of South Africa and South-West Africa/Namibia were identical, but that South Africa would look to its own interests first if forced to make the choice.

Botha Confirms Crocker 'Passing Through' to Europe
MB030723 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says that since last weekend's talks in South Africa with the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, he has been keeping in touch with Dr Crocker through the American ambassador to South Africa, Mr Nickel. Mr Botha said in Cape Town that it was through that channel that he had been keeping contact with Dr Crocker during the American's visit to the so-called Frontline States. Asked by newsmen to confirm Dr Crocker's return to South Africa from Maputo yesterday, Mr Botha said that he was aware that Dr Crocker would be passing through South Africa to Europe.

SAPA reports that it was not certain how long Dr Crocker would need to remain in South Africa before leaving for Europe, where he was committed to briefing the European partners on the latest developments in the South-West African initiative. Mr Botha also said in Cape Town that further contact with Dr Crocker would be maintained through normal diplomatic channels.

Deputy Minister Reaffirms Independence of SABC
MB030757 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Feb 84

[Text] The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, says the government does not prescribe to the South African Broadcasting Corporation [SABC] about the content of its programs, because it believes the independence and credibility of the corporation must be maintained. Speaking during the no-confidence debate in the House of Assembly, Mr Nel said the government played a very nominal role as far as the SABC was concerned, and only had a say about some programs intended for broadcast overseas.

He said the SABC was financially independent, and was a South African institution for the benefit of all the country's people. Its task was to inform, educate, and entertain; but it also had to cater for many different tastes and viewpoints. Mr Nel appealed to people to recognize this fact, and to be less selfish in their expectations. He said members of the public displayed a certain amount of arrogance in their judgment of the SABC, in that they often judged a program as bad simply because they did not enjoy it. He said it was extremely difficult to cater to everyone, and it had to be remembered that there were millions of people with differing views and tastes who had to be considered.

Disengagement Leaves 'Dicey Political Equation'
MB021037 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 2 Feb 84 p 7

[By Tony Weaver]

[Text] An air of mystery surrounds Mr P.W. Botha's announcement in Parliament on Tuesday that South African troops would henceforth "disengage" from military action in Angola. Very few details were given by the prime minister, and so the top-secret details of one of Africa's top-secret wars will remain — for the time being — top-secret.

As if to stress the top-secret nature of the war, a spokesman for Defence Headquarters in Pretoria yesterday told the Africa Bureau — very apologetically — that he had "nothing to add" to Mr Botha's statement. The impression was gained that he in fact knew nothing more — although the generals involved in battle-field planning must have details somewhere. The bland statement by Mr Botha gave a few hints, and press reports, especially in the nationalist press, took the matter slightly further.

Clearly, South African troops will, for the time being, refrain from hostile acts against Angolan troops, and on Angolan soil. The South African pullout after "Operation Askari" was supposed to have been completed two weeks ago — so that part of the disengagement has presumably been completed. But the Angolan Government — subsequent to the pullout — alleged that South African troops were still inside Angola, and were still maintaining their alleged reconnaissance flights over Angolan soil.

The ticklish question which will only be answered by events in the new few months, is whether or not the disengagement includes holding off attacks against SWAPO bases inside Angola — which have always been legitimized in terms of "hot pursuit" actions or "pre-emptive strikes." Should SWAPO launch its annual infiltration into northern Namibia in the next few weeks, will this mean they have broken an undeclared cease-fire? And will this then mean the disengagement no longer applies? South Africa has, in the past, said that because SWAPO guerrillas are "sheltering" behind Angolan FAPLA troops, it must be expected that FAPLA troops would get hurt in any battles which took place.

Although the disengagement offer is shrouded in mystery, in real terms it could mean at least some degree of calm returning to southern Angola. With all South African troops withdrawn from the region, UNITA troops — long accused of being mere surrogates of South Africa — will be on their own.

Normal civilian life has all but ceased in the area. Journalists overflying the area after "Operation Askari" spoke of seeing one solitary reaper tilling his fields, and he fled as the South African helicopters roared overhead. Otherwise — vast plains devoid of any human life. Once rich game areas now contained only the odd Muscovy duck — all the animals had been slaughtered by successive armies moving back and forth in the ebb and flow of the Angolan conflict.

The stark reality of the Angolan war is that the country has known no peace since 1961, when the first MPLA guerrillas took up arms against the Portuguese colonial regime. In 1975, civil war broke out in vengeance, South Africa invaded in October, Cuban troops landed in November, and UNITA has gone from strength to strength ever since. South African forces have launched annual raids aimed at SWAPO bases deep inside Angola, each one producing a new crop of Honoris Crux medals, bereaved parents and grieving widows. Concomittant with the raids have come constant accusations — and South African

denials — that South African troops are marching at will across southern Angola.

If the disengagement means a complete South African withdrawal from Angola — and a complete stop to cross-border raids — the prospects are there for the Angolan Government to begin putting heavy pressure on SWAPO to also tail off its activities — leading to an ultimate cease-fire and Namibian independence.

The joker in the pack is Dr Jonas Savimbi's UNITA. Widely held to be a south African surrogate, Dr Savimbi is unlikely to curtail his operations when the signs are he already has substantial military and political grip on the country's hinterland.

Which all adds up to a very dicey political equation filled with if's and but's. The whole exercise is so fragile that any excitement at this stage will have to be very seriously held in check, until the fruits of the offer begin to fall. And even then, all could be lost with one landmine explosion, one assassination, or one misplaced reconnaissance flight.

But to the people of southern Angola, at least there could be a measure of peace, a holiday from war, even if only for a few weeks or months.

ZIMBABWE

Information Minister Criticizes U.S. Press

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[Text] The minister of information, posts, and telecommunication, Comrade Nathan Shamuyarira, has criticized the American press, saying it is presenting a completely negative view of Zimbabwe.

Comrade Shamuyarira, who arrived in the American capital, Washington, on Wednesday, pointed out that the local media has been following instructions of the Reagan administration and is not as free as it tells the world to be. He also touched on Washington's decision to reduce aid to Zimbabwe because of Harare's abstention on a United Nations vote on the shooting down of the South Korean airliner by the Soviet Union last year. He said Zimbabwe consulted other African states on the issue and it had to go along with the general consensus.

Replying to a question, the minister defended the decision taken by Zimbabwe and Frontline member states to ban newsmen based in racist South Africa. He emphasized that they had to be proscribed because they were covering events in the region from the apartheid-ruled country's viewpoint.